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A Rural Survey of Tulare County California



MADE BY
COUNTRY CHURCH WORK
OF THE
BOARD of HOME MISSIONS of the PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH in the U. S. A.

WARREN H. WILSON, *Superintendent*
HERMANN N. MORSE, *Investigator*
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

1915



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OUTLINE MAP OF CALIFORNIA SHOWING POSITION OF
TULARE COUNTY

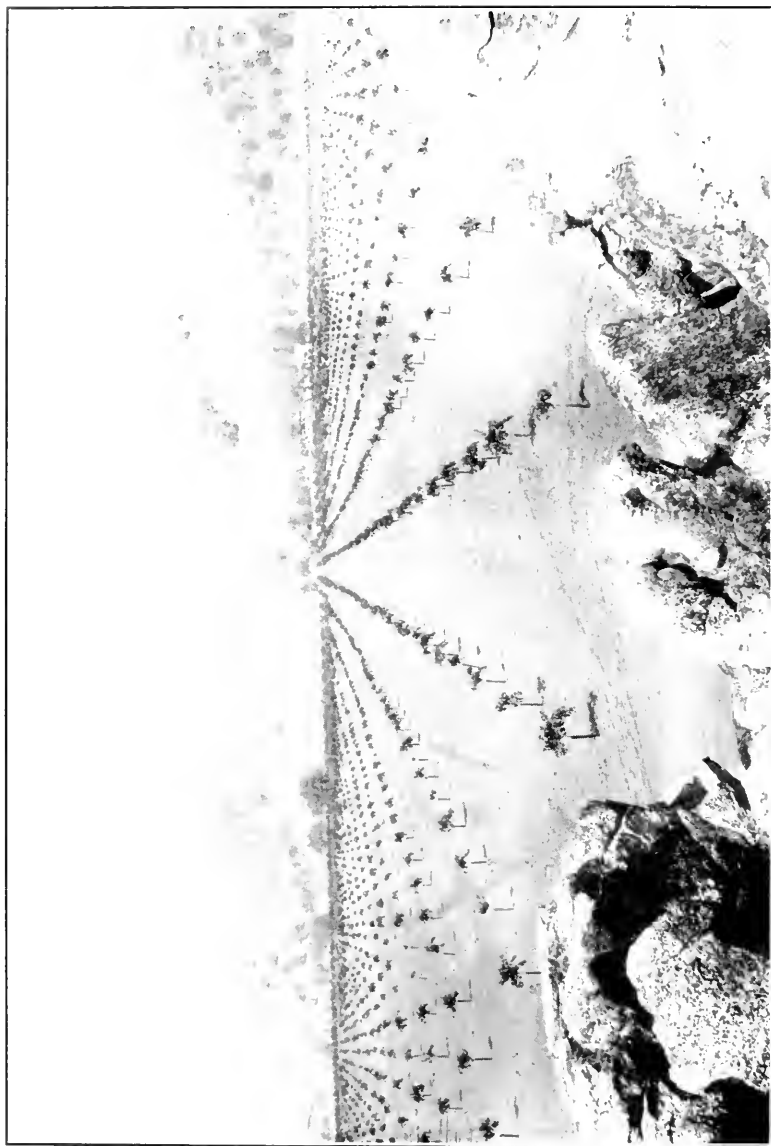
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YOUNG ORANGE ORCHARD. NOTE COVE FORMATION OF FOOTHILLS

PART I.

INTRODUCING TULARE COUNTY

Chapter 1—Foreword.

The social and religious problems of relatively new and rapidly growing communities must differ in many important particulars from those of sections where society is mature and social institutions long established. Social surveys made in the East and Middle West throw comparatively little light upon conditions obtaining on the Pacific Coast. For this reason the survey which is here reported was undertaken. The Home Missions Committee of the Synod of California asked that a survey be made within the borders of the Synod and the Presbytery of San Joaquin requested that one of the counties of its territory be selected for study. Preliminary arrangements to this effect having been made, the Home Missions Committee of the Presbytery suggested Tulare County because of the representative character of its industries, its predominatingly agricultural interests and its general accessibility. The field work of the survey was begun in the fall of 1914 by O. F. Wisner and was completed by H. N. Morse; this report was prepared for publication by the latter and is issued by the Country Church Work of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions for the use of all who are concerned with the problems which it discusses.

In the arrangement of the report the discussion of the general economic and social conditions is somewhat less detailed than the wealth of material secured might seem to warrant, and for two reasons. Though Tulare County has a fairly long history (for the West) most of its development is a recent matter and it is still far from its possible maximum; the rapidity of change in population and in economic conditions would certainly within a few years render obsolete any detailed statistical analyses. Further, a considerable amount of information about the resources of the county is already available in printed form, chiefly as publications of its various Boards of Trade. A list of these organizations is given later in the report and their bulletins may be obtained free of charge by anyone interested. Such publications must, of course, be used with a bit of caution. They are issued to advertise the advantages of the communities which they describe with a view to attracting settlers. Their selection of material, dictated by a more or

less pardonable pride with some sense of advantages to be derived (not wholly unselfish), is to say the least quite optimistic; especially so in view of the necessity of presenting a picture which will compare favorably with the efforts of all other advertising counties. They are, therefore, somewhat highly colored and give an impression of almost monotonous prosperity. Barring this accentuation of the high lights, they are reasonably accurate, and it is only fair to add that the more responsible organizations are doing a good deal to discourage misrepresentation by real-estate speculators, of whom California has a few. The bulletins of the County Board of Trade are to be preferred to those of local organizations which are under the double necessity of justifying both county and district. Its most recent publications, a series of seven monographs on the seven main branches of agriculture in the county, are very effective and contain much valuable material.

This report has no direct interest in the economic life of the county save as it conditions and gives form to the social, educational and religious problems, which are our primary concern.

Chapter 2—General Description of the County.

Tulare County lies near the geographical center of California in the great San Joaquin Valley. It has a land area of 4,856 square miles, or 3,107,840 acres, which makes it the seventh largest county in California, about equal to the combined areas of nine average Eastern or Middle Western counties. Approximately one-third of the total acreage is included in the farms of the county, although nearly one-half could be used for some form of agriculture as far as topography is concerned. The remaining area is mountainous, being included in the highest portion of the Sierra Nevada Range. It has many peaks reaching an elevation of more than 8,000 feet, the loftiest being Mt. Whitney, 14,887 feet high. At the base of the mountain range lies a range of foothills intersected by many coves and valleys. The western side of the county is on the valley floor, an almost dead level, with an average elevation of about 350 feet.

Within the borders of the county are the Sequoia National Park, half of the General Grant National Park, the Sierra Forest Reserve, the Tule River Indian Reservation and a considerable amount of other government land open for homestead entry. These tracts lie in the eastern half of the county and have a combined area (the Forest Reserve excluded) of nearly 300,000 acres. The two National Parks are famous for their groves of big trees (*Sequoia Gigantea*), which aggregate over 9,000 acres and contain some 12,000 trees exceeding 10 feet in diameter. The General Sherman in the Sequoia Park is said to be

the largest living tree in the world having a height of 280 feet and a maximum diameter of over 36 feet. These parks and the many other wonders of these mountains attract annually many campers and tourists. During the summer season when the mountain roads are open it is possible to penetrate the mountains at many points to a height of 7,000 feet or more by wagon or automobile, an inestimable boon during the hot season.

Climates are a matter of taste. Californians are proverbially weather boosters. The climate of the San Joaquin Valley is well adapted to the types of agriculture practised there, and the inhabitants praise it very highly to sojourners who are not usually so enthusiastic. The temperature ranges upward from a minimum of 20 degrees or thereabouts during the coldest months. A destructive freeze is rather rare but not unknown, though one hears tales of a "frostless belt." The average annual rain-fall of 10-12 inches is chiefly confined to four months, December to March, but is spread over a good many days with considerable fog on the valley floor, with the result that what cold there is is of a penetrating sort. The summer heat is extreme, but there is little humidity and no danger of heat prostration. Of course the long continued dry spell produces an uncomfortable quantity of dust. The most characteristic feature of the climate is the frequency amounting to regularity with which you are told that anything unpleasant about it is "very unusual."

There are 20 towns in the county of from 100 to 6,000 population. Visalia is the county-seat and largest town; the other important towns are Porterville, Tulare, Dinuba, Lindsay and Exeter. The facilities for transportation and travel are ample. The main lines and various branches of the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Railroads traverse the county, and with one electric road and numerous auto-stage routes, make every part of it easily accessible for both local and through traffic. The public road system is more extensive than excellent. The State highway from Los Angeles to San Francisco, part of the great system of through highways now being constructed, crosses the western side of the county. The exact route was but recently decided upon after a long conflict, and this section is now under construction. With the exception of this stretch of road and the roads within the Federal domain, all road work in the county outside of the limits of incorporated towns is at county expense and is directed by the County Board of Supervisors, five in number, each supervisor being responsible for one district.

There are in all nearly 3,500 miles of public road in the county, Tulare being the second county in the State in total road mileage.



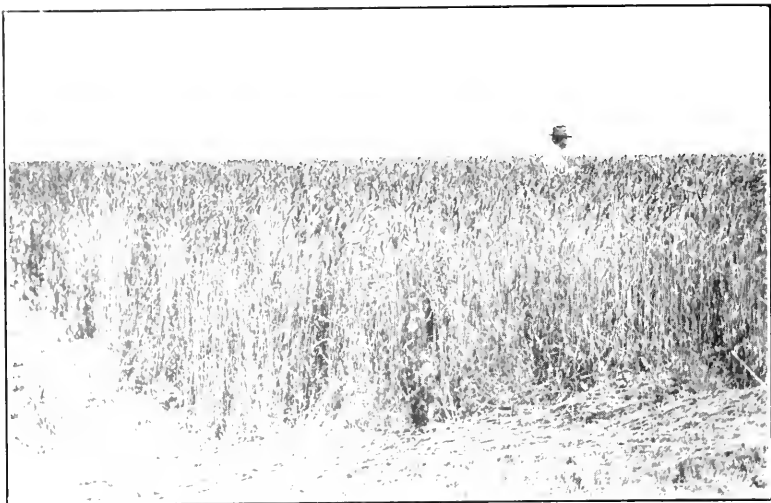
CHICKEN RANCH NEAR PORTERVILLE

There are no really "permanent" roads, though a considerable amount has been expended on permanent improvements in the way of grading, ditches, culverts and bridges. Most of the main roads are made of crude oil and sand. This makes a very serviceable surface, but must be renewed frequently if kept in good condition under heavy traffic, so that, though the initial cost is not great, the maintenance charge is heavy. The un-oiled roads, which form by far the largest percentage of the total mileage, are almost uniformly bad during the rainy season. This is particularly true on red or black adobe soil or "dry bog" where some of the roads become almost impassable. In dry weather, the more important of the un-oiled roads are kept in very excellent condition. The less important are apt to be as rough and dusty in summer as they are muddy in winter. The various districts are well outfitted with road machinery, and the work is, in the main, well done within the limit of the expenditure possible. Last year the total sum appropriated for up-keep and oil was nearly \$350,000. This amount is hardly adequate when it is remembered that the roads are subjected to very heavy traffic twelve months of the year, and that there is no blanket of snow to protect the road surface during the winter months when the traffic cuts in most deeply. In the citrus districts the heaviest hauling of the year is done at the season when the road surface is least able to bear it.

Last fall a proposition was put to the people to bond the County for approximately \$1,500,000 (the County not now having any bonded indebtedness) for the construction of a system of permanent highways. The plan as projected was faulty in many respects and failed of the necessary two-thirds vote. It is probable that a second bonding proposition calling for nearly \$2,000,000 will be put to vote this year. If the details are worked out more carefully, there is reason to believe that the vote will be favorable, which would be greatly to the permanent advantage of the County as a whole. Failing in this, there is one other way to obtain permanent roads, viz., by the formation of local districts under a state law whereby the property in the district is assessed for the cost of construction, about 60% of the total cost, and the County furnishes the material. The formation of such a district is at present being agitated to build a highway from Porterville to Lindsay.

Chapter 3—Resources.

The chief non-agricultural resources of the County are lumber, building stone, magnesite, minerals—chiefly gold and cement. The mountains at elevations of from 4,000 to 9,000 feet are heavily wooded



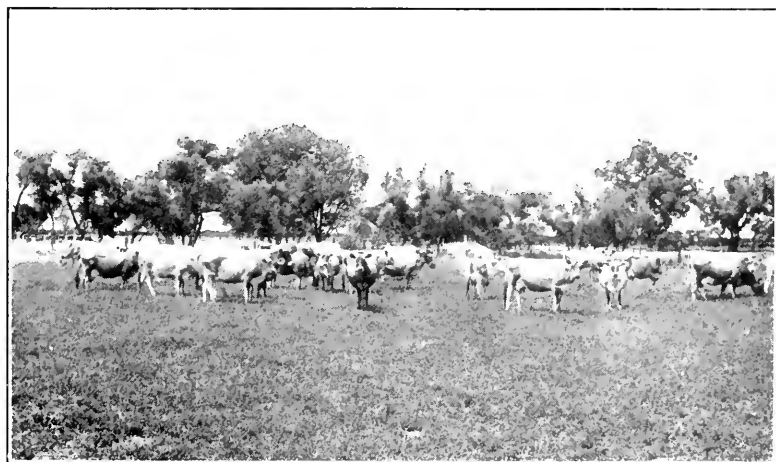
GRAIN OF THE GOLDEN WEST

with valuable timber. The timber line is not reached short of an altitude of about 12,000 feet, but the bulk of the timber is in the lower altitudes. At the higher altitudes are found California red fir, lodge pole pine and various subalpine species. In the main timber belt are found chiefly three kinds of timber, the sequoia or yellow pine, which is the principal source of supply, the sugar pine, mostly at a somewhat higher altitude, which is more prized but considerably less abundant, and spruce and tamarac. Below this timber belt on the higher foothills is an open forest of short, branchy species, mountain oak and bull pine predominating. This is not valuable for lumber, but many thousand cords of firewood are cut every year for shipment to various valley points. On the floor of the valley in some sections a considerable amount of eucalyptus is grown.

Of building stones, granite is the most important, and hills near Porterville are the source of supply. Some of the best quality granite found in the west is quarried here. Near Porterville is also what is probably the most extensive and valuable deposit of commercial magnesite in the United States, a product of unusual value just now that importations from Europe are shut off. Near Springville are extensive lime deposits. 1,000 acres of lime rock lands were recently purchased by the Riverside and Portland Cement Co., and a cement plant is to be established there. A great deal of gold has in times past been taken out of the mountains within the County borders. White River was once a very famous—or perhaps one should say, notorious—

mining town. Just recently work has been renewed in a number of long abandoned mines.

These various resources have an enormous aggregate value. As far as the bulk of the County's population is concerned they are, however, of relatively little importance compared with the agricultural resources, which are the great determining factors in the County's life. This is as true of the towns as of the open country, for here there is hardly a trace of that divorce of the country and the larger towns which is a feature of so many eastern sections. With the exceptions just mentioned there is no manufacturing or other business in the County of any importance which is not more or less connected with the agricultural industry. The majority of the people are dependent for their living, directly or indirectly, upon the success of that industry. It follows naturally that agriculture is the biggest factor in the formation of public opinion and in the determination of public policies.



A HERD OF FINE JERSEYS

PART II.

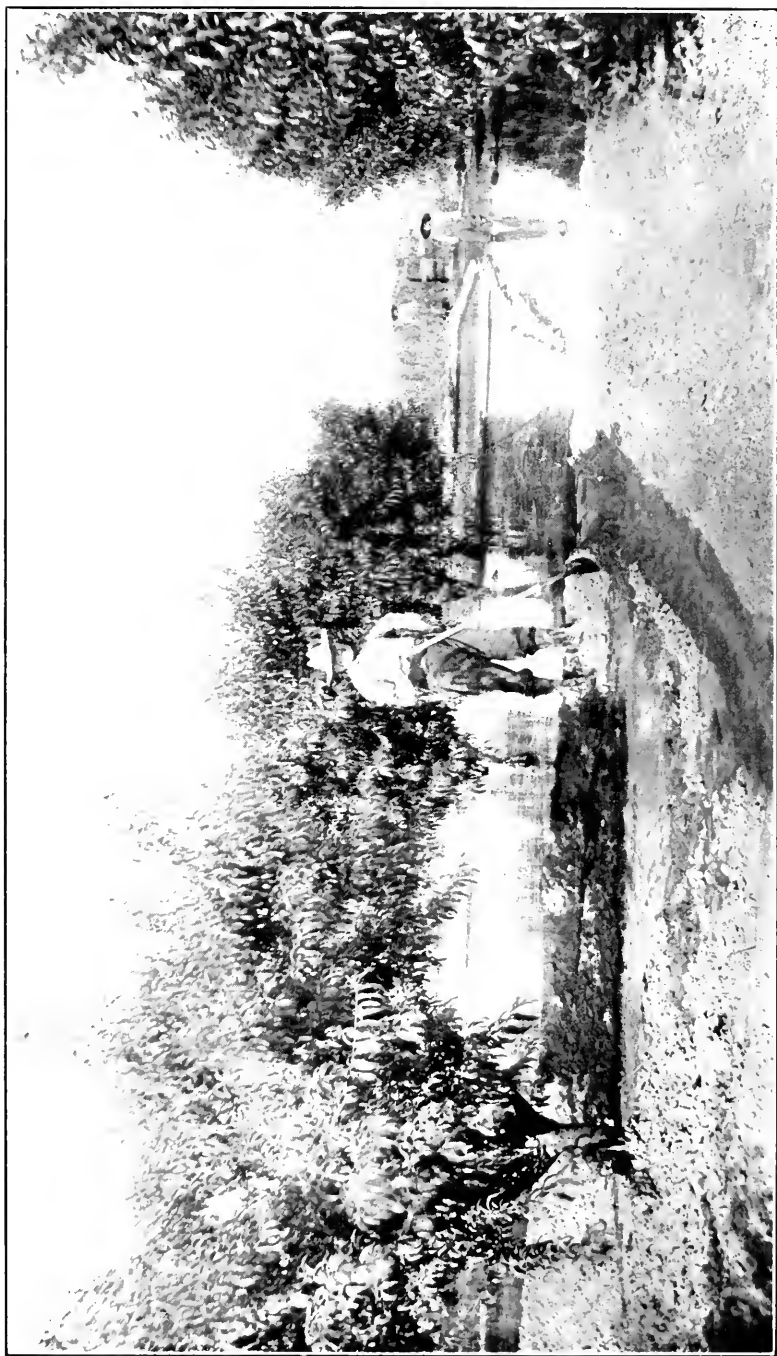
THE BUSINESS OF FARMING

Chapter 1—General Characteristics of the Agricultural Industry.

There is great diversity in the County's agricultural resources and quite a wide difference between various sections of the County in their prevailing types of farming. In this regard there has been rapid evolution during the last few decades. People still living here can remember the day—not so long distant—when the whole valley was one vast grazing ground for cattle. Later grain raising was introduced and practised on an enormous scale, the cattle being gradually driven back toward the poorer and rougher land of the foothills. Within 20 years there has been a great decrease in the grain average except in certain sections.

At present time the County may be roughly divided into five divisions according to type of farming. The higher slopes and hill pastures of the foothills are largely given over to beef cattle. Following the curving line of the foothills and extending back into the various coves is a belt some 10 or 12 miles wide which is best adapted to the culture of citrus fruits and olives. This belt extending from Richgrove on the southern border to Orange Cove in the north, includes Ducor, Terra Bella, Porterville, Strathmore, Lindsay, Exeter, Lemon Cove, Woodlake, Venire Hill and Orosi. Practically all the development here has come within ten years. The northwest corner of the County is given over to an extensive deciduous fruit and raisin industry, with Dinuba as the center, though there is a considerable acreage about Visalia, as far south as Tulare and as far east as the citrus belt. Tulare is the center of an extensive and rapidly growing dairy and alfalfa industry. This industry disputes supremacy with the deciduous fruits as far north as the Visalia district and east to the citrus belt. In the territory west and south of Tulare it is the chief source of income; so also in the Woodville and Poplar districts. The largest portion of the present acreage of small grains is in the southern part of the County in the territory lying within 15 or 20 miles of the Kern County line.

The soil in the citrus belt is mostly a red adobe, strongly impregnated with iron, with considerable stretches of black adobe and so-called "dry bog." These soils differ somewhat in formation and penetrability, but, on the whole, are about equally prized for citrus cul-



IRRIGATION DITCH

ture. The rest of the valley has mostly a fairly rich alluvial soil which grows excellent alfalfa and fruit with little commercial fertilizer. In many sections the soil is slightly and in some sections strongly alkaline. This alkaline soil has its uses, however, particularly if water is plentiful, as is being learned with profit, though there are still some extensive arid wastes in the county.

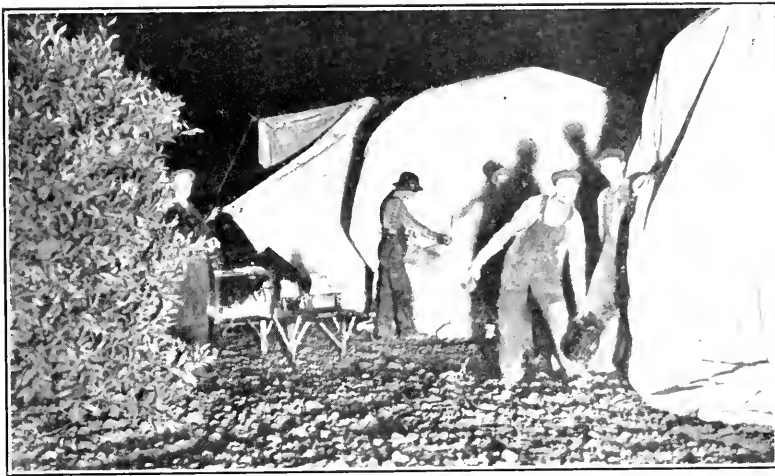
In general it may be said that specialized rather than diversified farming is characteristic of the county. Many farmers combine two or more of the types of farming mentioned above, or supplement them with sugar beets, corn, potatoes, poultry, beets, etc. Others who have young orchards grow small fruits, melons, vegetables and similar products between the trees. However, in the average instance it is upon one type of farming that the chief reliance is placed for a permanent labor income.

Chapter 2—Water Supply and Irrigation.

It is to the mountains that the valley must look for its continued prosperity. Water is of prime importance here, since the annual rainfall of 10 or 12 inches is sufficient only for the foothill grazing lands and the grain fields and not always for them. Everything else must be irrigated.

For a distance of 75 miles north and south the crest of the Sierras lies within the county, including many of the highest peaks of that range. This is the great watershed, the source of a practically inexhaustible supply of surface and sub-surface water, sufficient to irrigate the entire tillable area of the county.

Irrigation is either by gravity ditches or by pumps. The gravity ditches divert the water from the streams and creeks, the pumps draw upon the underground water. The Kings, Kaweah and Tule Rivers, with their tributaries, are the chief source of supply for the gravity systems. There are several large irrigation districts—notably the Alta District and the Tulare District—and many co-operative ditch systems. In all several hundred thousand acres are irrigated wholly or in part by gravity ditches. Places are now being formulated for several new irrigation districts which will serve a very considerable area. A state law provides the methods of procedure for the organization of such districts. The cost of irrigation in the established irrigation districts averages about \$1.50 per year for each acre irrigated. It is often necessary to supplement this in summer by pump irrigation. The cost in a new district may be illustrated by the figures presented by the consulting engineer for the proposed Terra Bella Irrigation District. The plan here is to draw water from Deer Creek, impounding the flow in



FUMIGATING ORANGE ORCHARD FOR SCALE

a storage reservoir, and contemplates a gross area of 12,500 acres of land with 32% reserve storage, total cost to be approximately \$824,-800. Once the district is established, the water belongs to the land. The estimated maximum charge is \$7.28 per acre in the eighth year, gradually decreasing to \$3.31 per acre in the fortieth year, and thereafter not to exceed \$1.50 per acre, or the actual cost of maintenance and operation.

Pump irrigation is a more recent development and is made possible by reason of the fact that the strata of underground water are usually found near to the earth's surface and consequently the water-lift is not great. The wells range in depth from 70 to 300 feet or more, but the water-lift seldom exceeds 80 feet and is often only 10 to 15 feet. Pump irrigation is more expensive than gravity irrigation, but is more reliable. So many factors enter into the cost that any figure given as a yearly average cost per acre for the county would be of little value. The cost, however, ranges from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per acre for each irrigation.

Where electric power is available for pumping—as in most of the county—it is preferred. Elsewhere, gasoline engines are used. There are three electric power companies operating in the county, and the service is said to be both efficient and reasonable in cost.

The number of irrigations necessary per year depends upon the nature of the soil and the kind of product grown. Mature vineyards and deciduous orchards usually require but one irrigation a season. Alfalfa does best with two or three floodings. Citrus orchards require relatively frequent irrigations.

The fact that it is so vital in this county to obtain a sufficient supply of water has been the cause of more or less litigation and hard feelings, sometimes between districts drawing their supply from the same source and sometimes within districts touching the policy of administering the water. The whole matter is, however, in a fair way to be adequately covered by legislation and court decisions.

Chapter 3—General Character of the Recent Development.

Tulare County has made a most remarkable growth during the last few decades, but particularly during the last 15 years. Many factors have contributed to this: the steady development of the markets for its products and the improvement of transportation facilities, the establishment of the fact that the belt of land along the foothills is ideal for citrus and olive culture, the discovery of the feasibility of pump irrigation on a large scale and the development of economical power for pumping, and the widespread and incessant advertising of the county's resources and advantages are a few of the outstanding reasons.

In 1900 it was the twelfth county in the state in the total valuation of all farm property, with a valuation of \$20,287,801.00. In 1910, it



A FARMER'S HOME IN TULARE COUNTY

was the third county in the state, with a valuation of \$76,539,642. Its increase during this 10 year period was 277.3%, by far the largest per cent of increase shown by any California county. While no figures are available for this current year, it is probable that the present valuation is well over \$100,000,000.00, and the end is by no means yet

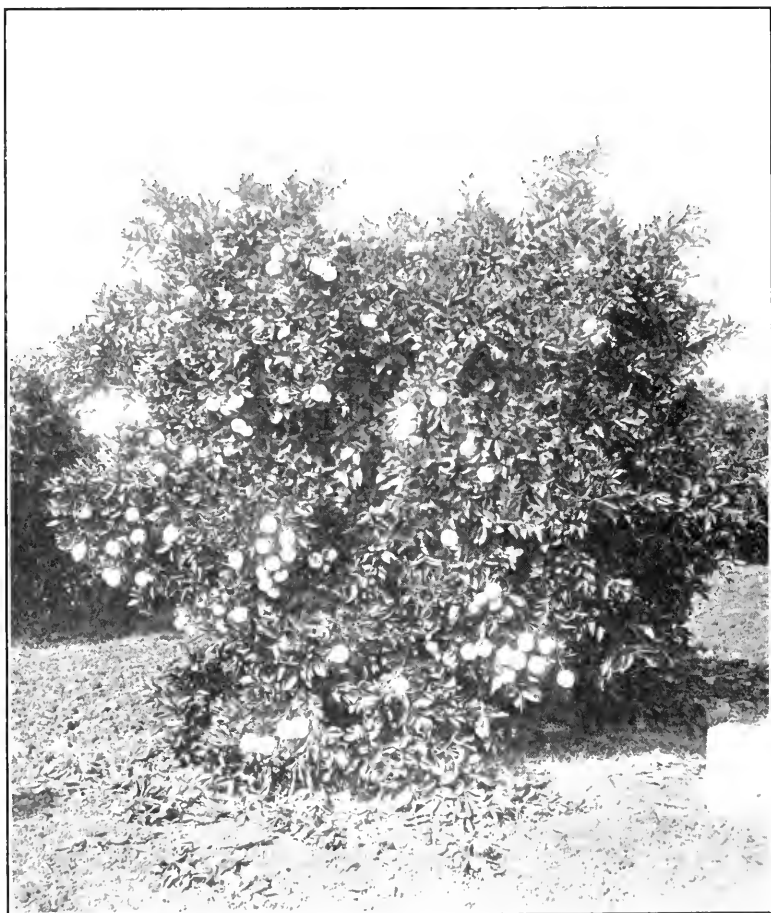
reached. The two greatest factors in this increase were and still are the development of the citrus industry and the breaking up into small tracts of many large holdings.

In 1910, of the total valuation of farm property, 84.2% represented land only, 5.5% buildings, 2.4% implements and machinery, and 7.9% stock, poultry, etc. These percentages are about an average for the state, but the per cent of value in land is very high and the per cent in buildings and equipment very low as compared with the county as a whole. This is explained by the fact that much of the cheaper land is held in large tracts with practically no buildings; many of the more recently acquired small farms are so heavily mortgaged that only the poorest buildings have been erected, while the developed orchards have a large per acre valuation and require practically no buildings but a dwelling and a pump house. The average value of all property for the 4,021 farms was, in 1910, \$19,035.60. The number of farms nearly doubled in 10 years.

The per acre value of land has increased even more rapidly than the total valuation of farm property, showing that the actual improvement of land has not kept pace with the speculation in land values. In 1900 the average value of land per acre was but \$15.00. In 1910 it was \$61.67. As a matter of fact, this figure means very little, the variations in value, or at least in asking price, are so great. There are some grazing lands which would doubtless bring not more than \$5.00 an acre, and some stretches of land without water suitable for wheat, and possibly, if water were developed, for alfalfa, which could be purchased for from \$40.00 to \$75.00 an acre. Alfalfa and fruit lands under irrigation are held at from \$100 to \$350 or more per acre, the citrus lands bringing the highest price. Bearing orchards bring as high as \$2,000 an acre. Then, of course, there is an abundance of lands, technically called farm lands, which at present have little or no market value.

The County has been persistently exploited by real-estate speculators. Large tracts are held by non-resident investors purely for speculative purposes. Prices have in many cases been inflated considerably above actual income-producing value. This has affected in many ways the stability of investments in farm property, and has had many other unfortunate results. It is doubtful if any rural section elsewhere supports as many real-estate agents to the square mile as this San Joaquin valley. There are literally dozens of them operating in Tulare County or with Tulare County lands. A great deal of property changes hands every year, many tracts being repeatedly sold. The smaller investors usually buy on time, and as a result an unusually

high percentage of the farms, especially the small farms, have mortgage indebtedness. This is not necessarily bad, but may become so. The whole situation is forced, and the effects upon community stability are unfortunate. At least one Chamber of Commerce in the County has recognized this and has turned its attention to efforts to discourage the inflation of land values and the sale of acreage to speculators. Much of the advertising of the County's resources, particularly the irresponsible advertising of individual land brokers, has failed to sufficiently emphasize the amount of capital needed to successfully develop farms in this locality, particularly if there are to be fruit farms where the only income for the first few years will be from wheat, small fruits and vegetables that can be raised between the growing



LEMONS

trees—a more or less precarious hope. It is partly in consequence of this that one so often sees the sign, "This ranch for sale," which may veritably be called the California trade mark.

As has already been intimated the present trend is strongly toward the small farm. By this is meant the 20-40 acre tract. In 1910, 45% of all the farms contained less than 50 acres each, while 61% contained less than 100 acres each. There were 1,247 farms of from 20-49 acres, 31% of the whole number of farms. If figures were available for the current year they would show this even more strongly. It undoubtedly is possible to make a good living off of a 20-40 acre tract, particularly if fruit is grown. Most of the large holdings are either cattle ranches or grain farms. The largest acreage in one holding is now 36,000 acres.

Chapter 4—Farming According to Type.

Tulare County is potentially the most important county in the United States for the production of citrus fruits. The industry here is hardly 25 years old, and most of the development has taken place within 10 years; yet Tulare County is to-day the banner county in the matter of citrus fruit acreage, and in another 10 years should easily distance its nearest competitor both in total acreage and annual output. The acreage at present for all citrus fruits is approximately 43,450, divided as follows: oranges, 42,000 acres; lemons, 1,200 acres; grape fruit, 250 acres. Less than a third of this acreage has come into bearing, the non-bearing acreage being of oranges, 30,450; lemons, 750; grape fruit, 150. The lemon acreage will be more than doubled this year, while the orange acreage is sure of a substantial annual increase for some time to come. Most of the oranges are Washington navels with some Valencias; the favorite variety of lemons is the Eureka, and of grape fruit, Marshe's Seedless.

The development extends the entire length of the County, north and south, along the line of the foothills, but centers around Lindsay. The Lindsay district this year produced about 55% of the total output of the County, and shipped out more oranges than any single shipping point in the county. At the National Orange Show in San Bernardino in February of this year, Lindsay carried away the grand Sweepstakes and 16 minor prizes, and was given the sobriquet of "The most persistent prize-winning community of the orange belt." The entire orange belt, however, produces fruit of the highest quality, both soil and climate being well adapted to citrus culture. The oranges mature earlier than in Southern California, and can be gotten on the Eastern markets in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Prior to this year



IRRIGATION IN OLIVE ORCHARD

there has been some tendency here as elsewhere to ship immature fruit. Government chemists have been at work for some time to determine a proper standard of maturity, and last fall announced a tentative standard as eight parts soluble solids to one part acid, the acid to be calculated as citric acid without water of crystallization. A County Protective Association was formed to enforce this test and also a color test of 40% orange color before shipping, and to certify all shipments complying with these standards. 98% of all navels shipped from the county during the season received the certification of the Association

to this effect. It is probable that these standards will be enacted into law. The setting of these standards has had the hearty support of the growers, and it is recognized that their observance will mean much to the future of the citrus industry. The total shipment of navel oranges this season, up to March 20th, was 5,129 cars; the yearly shipment of Valencia oranges, lemons and grape fruit will total over 1,000 cars.

There is no smut on the oranges in this county which obviates the necessity of washing them before packing. The only dangerous enemy to the orange here is the so-called gray scale. This has attacked a large



GRAPES

proportion of the mature citrus orchards. Careful investigations were carried on as to the best way to combat this scale, and last summer, in addition to some spraying, very extensive fumigating operations were carried on, over 800 acres of trees being fumigated at a cost of more than \$30,000. The work was done under County direction and the exact cost was charged against the growers. The results were apparently very excellent, though it will be necessary to experiment further before final conclusions are reached. The work will be resumed this summer.

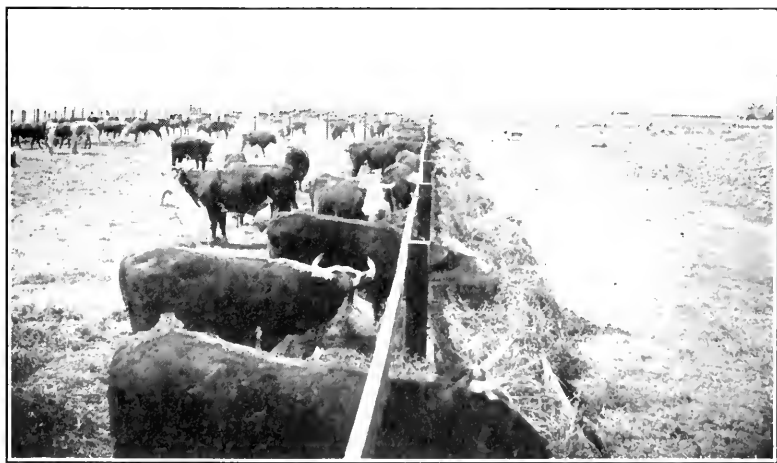
Good citrus land is higher priced than any other farming land in the county, and the industry requires more capital for its development. More wealth is therefore concentrated in the citrus belt than elsewhere in the county, though the acreage handled by one individual is usually small. Where properly carried on the growing of citrus fruits offers very fair returns on the investment. Detailed figures as to cost and profit are given in various County publications, and may be found there by those interested.

Combined with many orange orchards throughout the citrus belt is found the olive tree, which is also beginning to be grown on a very considerable scale. It offers great promise for this country, and is growing rapidly in favor. It will prosper on a wider variety of soils and in greater extremes of temperature than the orange, and many sections of the country seem ideal for its production. It is an extremely long-lived tree (the oldest bearing trees in United States were planted in 1769), and is considered by many growers a better investment than the orange. There are at present about 300 bearing and 1,500 non-bearing acres in the county. This acreage will be increased rapidly. Plans for this year call for the setting out of from 3,500 to 4,000 acres. No serious insects or fungus pests have yet developed. The favorite variety is the Mission, with the Manzanillo second in popularity.

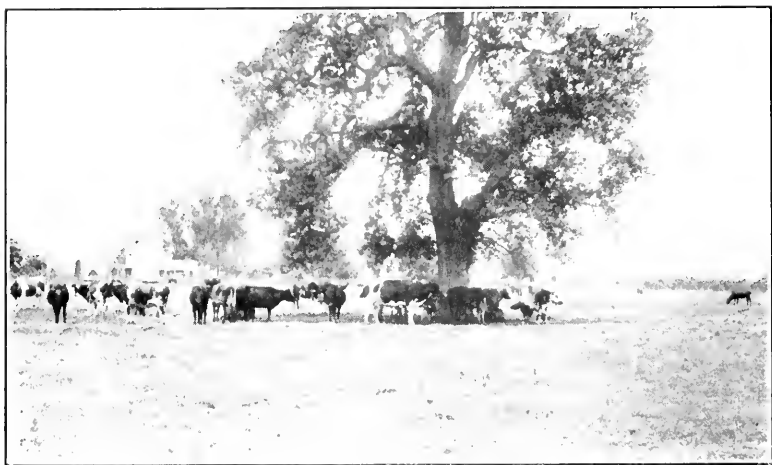
Second only to citriculture in present and potential importance among the County's industries is viticulture. Dinuba is the center of the industry in this County, though there are large vineyards in many other sections. The grapes grown are of three classes—raisin grapes, wine grapes and table grapes. Of these the raisin grapes are by far the most important, Tulare County being second only to Fresno County in their production. The present bearing acreage of all grapes in the county is about 9,000, with an additional 5,500 acres not in bearing last season. The preferred variety is the Muscat, though Thompson's Seedless, Sultana's, and certain other varieties are also extensively grown. The output last season was between 25 and 30 million pounds,

with a market value of about one million dollars. The net profit to the grower constitutes a reasonable return on his investment. Some wine is made, there being four wineries in the county, but its relative importance is not great.

Of the deciduous tree fruits the most important by far is the peach, followed by prunes and plums, figs, apples and apricots in the order named. A few pears are grown, though most of the trees were destroyed by blight some time ago, and some cherries. The present acreage for these fruits is as follows: peaches, 8,420; prunes and plums, 3,750; figs, 510; apples, 500; apricots, 450; pears, 70, and cherries, 25. The apples and cherries do best in the higher altitudes of the foothills, where some varieties of pears also thrive. The others are at home almost anywhere on the valley floor. The apples are excellent as to size and color, but are deficient in flavor. The other fruits are in all respects of excellent quality. A considerable acreage of these fruits is being set out each year, though just at present the prune acreage seems to be growing the most rapidly. Last year the county produced 31,380 tons of green peaches, 5,000 tons of dried prunes, 850 tons of green plums, 450 tons dried figs, 150 tons dried apricots. The leading varieties of peach are the Philipps and Tuscans for canning, the Muir Lovell and Elberta for drying; of the prune, the French and Robede Sargent; of the fig, the Adriatic and Mission. Tulare County peaches have taken many prizes, including first against the world at the Paris Exposition. In comparison with the other counties of the state, Tulare County is third in the number of bearing peach



STALL FEEDING ALFALFA TO BEEF CATTLE



THOROUGHBRED HOLSTEINS

trees, third for figs, fourth for prunes and plums, and sixth in the number of bearing non-tropical orchard trees of all varieties. The coddling moth on the apple trees and "little leaf" and the peach twig borer are the chief ailments of the deciduous fruit trees.

Alfalfa is an important item in most sections of the country, being the only forage crop cultivated extensively. It does well here, four or five cuttings with a yield of six to ten tons per acre being usual after the first year on the good land, though the average yield on all alfalfa fields in the county is a little over three tons to the acre. The average annual acreage is around 40,000, but is increasing. A large acreage of grain, mostly barley, is also cut green each year for fodder. Alfalfa grain for sale is not very profitable at the prevailing prices, its chief claim to notice as a profit maker being in connection with dairy or beef cattle.

Tulare County hasn't the importance it once had in the matter of beef production, but there are probably at this time between 50,000 and 60,000 head of beef cattle, steers, cows and calves in the county. There is also a large annual importation for feeding. Most of the cattle are grazed on the foothill ranges and in the government forest. In the alkali districts some cattle are grazed on the salt grasses, which are not very fattening, but grow all year and keep the cattle alive. Extensive experiments are being made as to the profit in stall-feeding alfalfa and are proving very successful. Porterville is the largest initial beef-shipping point in the state, its annual shipments totaling in value hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Alfalfa is the foundation of the rapidly growing dairy industry. Many conditions favor the growth of the dairy industry, chief among which may be mentioned the climate, abundant crops, and the proximity of growing markets. In 1909 the total receipts from the sale of all dairy products in the county was \$942,746. In 1914 the receipts totaled nearly \$1,500,000. There are nine creameries in the county—at Tulare, Tipton, Visalia, Exeter and Porterville, and two cheese factories. In general, the cream only is sold and the skim fed to hogs—another great source of profit. The Holstein is the favorite dairy cow, with the Jersey second choice. There has been a constant grading up of cattle, particularly in the neighborhood of Tulare, where there are many fine registered, pure-bred cows; also many unusually good grade cows.

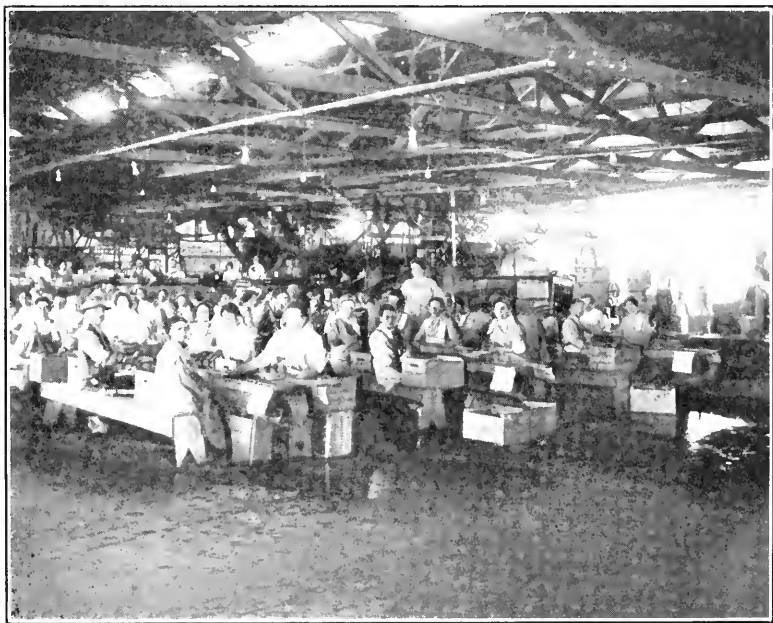
The acreage devoted to the various cereals is much smaller now than formerly, but is still considerable. In 1909 there were 66,567 acres of wheat, 27,017 of barley, and 10,987 kafiscorn and milo maize, these being the only cereals grown on a large scale. This acreage made Tulare County first among the counties of the state in acreage of wheat and also of kafiscorn and milo maize. In the value of all cereals produced it ranks fifth. The acreage sown to wheat this year is the largest of any year for some time.

The above mentioned industries are the most important factors in the agricultural prosperity of the county. They by no means complete the list of the things which are raised and found profitable. There is a sugar beet factory at Visalia, with a daily slicing capacity of 400 tons, and another at Corcorran, just over the county line, with a capacity of 600 tons. Sugar beets of high sugar content are raised on Tulare County lands, and a good yield per acre obtained, though the sugar beet is not a sure money maker. Poultry and bees are important income producers, chiefly as adjuncts to other branches of farming, though the number of exclusively poultry farms is increasing. Small fruits, vegetables and melons are raised extensively, especially on non-bearing orchard lands. It has been found that rice will grow profitably on land strongly alkaline, if sufficient water can be obtained, and rice culture will probably increase. Sorghum of good quality can be grown, and its cultivation is increasing in some sections. Tulare County is one of the two counties of the state which raises any considerable amount of Turkish tobacco. The tobacco is of good quality, but the condition of the tobacco market is such that without a much larger acreage and a working organization of the growers the crop is not apt to be highly profitable. Some Indian corn is raised, but it does not do especially well. Sheep, goats, horses and mules are in considerable

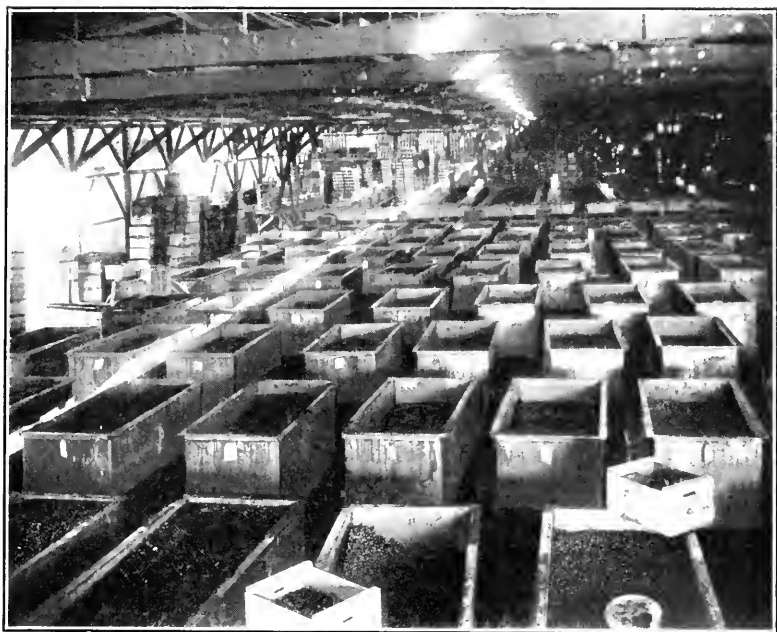
numbers. Almonds and English walnuts can be grown, and their acreage is increasing. Potatoes, onions and beans are important crops in some sections.

Chapter 5—Marketing and Co-operation.

The problem of marketing is one of central importance in farming everywhere. The exact form of the problem is determined by various factors, such as proximity to markets, kind, quality and quantity of products to be marketed, trade conditions, including price and stability of the market, methods of handling products and their condition upon reaching markets, etc. The great diversity of Tulare County's products gives rise to some important and grave problems in connection with their marketing. On the one hand we have a class of products that are and always have been regarded as trade staples; they are classed as necessities, and the demand for them is steady, depending only upon the population to be supplied and the quantities on hand. Such are dairy products, poultry products, beef, cereals. Then there is a class of products that have come to be accepted as staples and are already in a fair way to be considered necessities, and for which there is already a steady and growing demand. Such are certain deciduous



PORTERVILLE CO-OPERATIVE CANNERY



PORTERVILLE CO-OPERATIVE CANNERY

fruits, raisins, honey. Lastly, there is a class of products for which a market demand at all commensurate with the present and future supply has had to be quite recently created, and for which a much greater demand must be created if the inevitable increase in production is not to result in a serious and ruinous over-production. Their rank as trade staples in a broad sense is hardly won. Such are the citrus fruits, green and ripe olives and olive oil. With the first class of products the problem is simply to produce a first-class article, put it on the market in good condition, and there handle it so as to give the producer the maximum return possible. This, of course, is not as simple as it sounds and involves many factors, but it does not necessitate any campaign to create markets, increase the per capita consumption of butter or eggs by advertising, etc. With the second class of products the market has had to be in a measure created, but the work is to a considerable extent accomplished. The last class of products have all the marketing problems incident to the first two classes plus an imperative necessity to create new markets and greatly extend old ones. Standardization and uniform excellence of products, virtues in staples like butter, eggs and beef, become here prime necessities whose neglect may entail ruin upon the industry. For example, in



OLIVE TREES. NOTE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION BOXES

1913-14, California supplied about 27% of the total lemon consumption of the United States and Canada, importations and Florida orchards accounting for the remainder. When all the lemon groves now planted come into bearing, California will produce, with only a moderate yield, more lemons than the entire country now consumes. And yet thousands of acres additional are being set out this year. Not only must California lemons entirely displace the imported and Florida lemons on the market but the per capita consumption of lemons must be considerably increased. There is not at present any noticeable

shortage of oranges to supply the normal market demands, though those demands have greatly increased during the last ten years. Yet Tulare County alone, on the basis of present acreage, will, within five years, be producing more than 15,000 carloads annually in excess of its present output, and each year will see a considerable increase in acreage. It is quite obvious therefore not only that the readjustments in the methods of handling the citrus crop which have taken place in the past were in response to imperative necessities but also that similar readjustments must necessarily take place in the future. That is why the citrus industry is to-day the most highly organized and efficiently managed agricultural industry in the world. If this were not true it would not take a prophet to predict the speedy collapse of the industry and the jeopardizing of the \$200,000,000 or more invested in it, in view of the enormously increasing production.

Co-operation in one form or another has become one of the great outstanding features of the agricultural industries of Tulare County. It is impossible within the limits of this report to do more than indicate the general nature and extent of this co-operation, though the subject is interesting and important. The co-operative associations are of two kinds—stock corporations doing business on co-operative lines and non-profit corporations without capital stock. The State Statutes provide for "the incorporation, organization, management and co-operation of agricultural, non-profit associations which do not have capital stock and whose business is not carried on for profit. These associations issue certificates of membership to each member, but the membership cannot be transferred or assigned to any other person, nor is the purchaser of the property of a member entitled to membership by virtue of such purchase. In such associations the basis of voting and the control of the membership is subject to rules made by the association. These associations may accumulate a capital with which to transact business, though the capital is not in the form of a paid-in capital stock. It may be accumulated pro rata from the proceeds of the shipments of the members, or in any other way agreed to by the members." In actual practise in this county most of such associations are conducted with the "one-man, one-vote" principle.

Co-operation in the citrus industry has several stages. For the initial handling of the fruit, sorting, grading, packing, there is first the organization of local growers maintaining a packing house. These local units unite to form an exchange. There are four exchanges in the county. These local exchanges are members of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange which handles the larger concerns of marketing, advertising, legal assistance and the like, and also maintains a

Fruit Growers' Supply Company, through which the growers can purchase all kinds of packing house and orchard supplies at the bare cost of handling the business. The largest item of expense comes in connection with the conduct of the local packing house. The operating cost of the county exchanges is between one and two cents per box, and of the State Exchange, including amounts spent for advertising, 5½c. per box, an astonishingly low figure. The exchange marketed a little more than 50% of Tulare County's crop this last season. With the formation this spring of the County's fourth exchange, next season from 60 to 65% of the total crop will be so marketed. Not all of the remainder is handled by commercial organizations, part being handled by groups of growers not members of the Exchange. There is also to be mentioned the Citrus Protective League, composed of both co-operative associations and private companies, which looks after the legal interests of the growers, prosecutes necessary suits, etc. The cost of the service to Exchange members is included in the operating cost of the State Exchange. Last of all a County Protective Association was formed representing 98% of the year's shipments to secure enforcement of the government's maturity standards. Its operating expense was one-fifth of a cent per box. It is probable that no other industry in the country can show a smaller proportionate over-head expense in the handling of its product. There are also, of course, a number of private companies operating in the county and handling a large volume of business. Co-operation in the citrus industry, though highly efficient, has been of slow growth, and has not yet gotten the support it deserves from the whole number of growers.

The raisin industry is also highly organized with a general plan of operation somewhat similar and co-operation has done a great service here also. About 80% of the growers are members of the association.

The present high plane of the dairy industry is due in a large degree to the part played by the co-operative creameries, of which there are six in the County—at Tulare (2), Tipton, Visalia, Porterville and Exeter. These handle a large and increasing proportion of the total dairy products of the County.

Other co-operative enterprises concerned with the marketing of products are the co-operative poultry associations at Tulare and Visalia, the County Bee-Keepers' Association, and the co-operative canneries at Porterville (the largest of its kind in the State), Terra Bella and Tulare handling deciduous fruit, olives, tomatoes, etc.

There are various other co-operative organizations whose primary concern is other than marketing. The financial and social importance of these organizations varies greatly. The list would include nine

Rochdale or other co-operative stores, chiefly in the larger towns; co-operative ditch or irrigation associations; mutual telephone associations; one cow-testing association and a number of co-operative farm bureaus or farmers' unions which aim at some co-operative buying and selling, as well as study for the general improvement of farming. The interesting feature about these organizations is more the future possibilities involved in the extension of the co-operative principle than in the scale of their present operations, though that is often highly important. It is highly significant, however, that a fair proportion of the farming population are steadily moving toward thorough-going acceptance of the co-operative method of work in everything that concerns their mutual interests.

The limitations of co-operation are in its narrow radius of activity. There has been as yet but little effort to draw social or other than economic values from its operation. The reasons for this are not far to seek. Co-operation here is generally confined to the handling of one crop or to one clearly defined class of activities—without doubt the correct principle. It has developed in response to economic pressure. Its functions have been limited, and those limitations definitely stated, and have only been enlarged as necessity arose. The movement is still quite young and has had to find its way. It is upon all

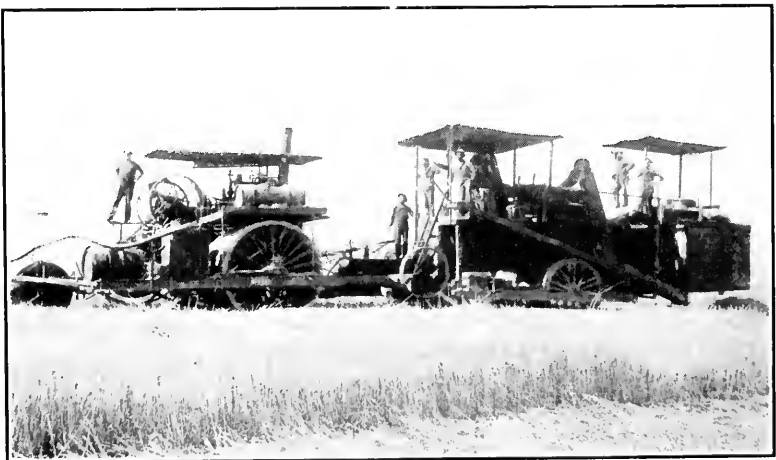


DRYING RAISINS

the more firm a foundation because its development has not been unduly forced. Then, too, most of the communities have had other means of co-operating in social and general concerns through their Boards of Trade, the Grange, and similar organizations. It is probably true, however, that from the community standpoint much good will result from deliberately strengthening the social bond and fostering social intercourse between the members of any given co-operative organization. Its economic purposes are advanced by the mutual acquaintance and understanding of its members, and it is in addition made a stepping-stone to an increase in the general prosperity and welfare of the community.

Chapter 6—Some Problems of Farm Administration.

Tenantry.—For the county as a whole the proportion of farms operated by tenants is low and decreasing. In 1900 it was 23.4%. In 1910 it was but 12.3%. Farms set out to orchards, particularly citrus orchards, and vineyards are rarely rented. Most of the renting is confined to grain and alfalfa lands and dairy farms. Among the dairy men who rent a large proportion are Portuguese. Many grain and stock men who own land are accustomed to rent some additional land. The holding of land for speculative purposes and non-resident ownership of land have not had much effect upon tenantry since most of the land so held is either unimproved, devoted to alfalfa or grain or operated by managers. The operation of farms by managers is increasing; the number of farms so operated tripled during the 1900-



HARVESTER WITH TRACTOR

1910 decade. Where land is rented it is usually on a year lease and for a cash or share and cash consideration.

Credit.—The problem of farm credit is difficult everywhere, and is here found in a particularly aggravated form. A large amount of capital is required to develop the farms, particularly where orchards are set out, and most of the newcomers buy on time. Money is fairly easy to borrow on the land and sometimes on the improvements, but the prevailing rates of interests are high. In case of adverse conditions, as in the winter of 1912-13, when severe frosts injured many young citrus orchards, the position of the man operating on credit is not enviable.

Labor.—The labor question is largely a question of the seasonal worker. With the exception of the dairy and cattle business, each branch of farming confines its demands for labor to a certain restricted period of the year. This is true equally of the citrus and olive orchards, vineyards, deciduous fruit orchards, sugar beets, grain, and of packing houses, canneries, etc. These seasonal workers include men, women and children, Orientals, Hindoos, Mexicans, Indians, and Americans. In part, the seasonal work is done by residents of the county who take this means of supplementing their normal incomes; this is particularly true of the work of women and children. In large measure, however, these workers come in from outside, sometimes contracted for, but more often coming as individuals to seek work where they can find it. The whole matter is very poorly managed. As example, this last citrus picking season may be cited. Hundreds of workers arrived on the ground to pick the fruit before they were needed. More arrived altogether than there was work for. Those obtaining work earn fair pay, but are seldom either housed or fed by their employers. In consequence the County at such times is filled with groups of men camping in woods and river bottoms and begging from house to house and in the streets of the towns. No adequate steps are taken to regulate the supply of labor to the demand, to properly distribute the labor or to properly care for those who do find work; on the whole, an intolerable condition, which is largely taken for granted. In general, it may be said that farm labor is not well treated, and is wretchedly housed or not housed at all. The problem of the supply of labor is more than local and can only be handled by concerted action; the problem of the care and housing of labor may be considered a local problem.

Farming Methods.—The farming of the county is in general of a high order of intelligence. The land is now for the most part well treated, though there are large stretches of land of little present value which would still be productive were it not for mistreatment in the

past. The orchards and vineyards are in the main well cared for. Cattle are often very poorly housed, but this is of far less importance than in a more severe climate. Intelligence is generally used in selecting and caring for dairy cows. The best labor-saving machinery is commonly used. Tractors are frequently used with gang plows, combined harvesters, etc.

Farming is a business here, and is conducted on better business principles than in many sections of the country. The farmers are learning to think in terms of interest on their investment and labor income and to study the problems of farm management.

In general it may be said that the future of the farming industry in this county is bright. With constantly improving methods of production, with the extension of co-operation and bettering of market conditions, with the reclamation and utilization of much now barren land, it is reasonable to expect that continued progress will be made for many years to come.

PART III.

POPULATION AND SOCIAL LIFE.

Chapter 1—Number, Distribution and Composition of Population.

In 1870 Tulare County, then including a much greater territory than at present, had a population of 4,533. In 1900, after another county had been carved out of its territory, the population was 18,375. In 1910 it was 35,440, an increase for the decade of 92.9%. For the years since 1910 no reliable figures are available. Taking, however, the increase in the Grammar School enrollment as an index of the increase in total population, which, under the circumstances, is fair, it would seem that the 1915 population of the county is approximately 47,800, an increase in five years of over 12,000, or nearly 35%. The division of the population into rural and urban, according to the usual census classification (the population of all places of 2,500 or more is classed as urban, the population of smaller towns and the open country as rural) is without significance here. The present population of the six principal towns, as nearly as it can be estimated, is 19,950, about 42% of the total population. An additional 7 or 8 per cent live in the various villages having a population of 100 or more. About one-half the population live practically in the open country.

The northwestern corner of the county and certain parts of the citrus belt are the most densely populated sections. About 45% of the total population are in the territory included in or immediately adjacent to the citrus belt. The fruit sections will, of course, support a proportionately larger population than the grain, alfalfa and dairy sections, since the per capita acreage required for successful farming is less. All considerations lead to the conclusion that the two great centers of population in the county in the future will be first the territory tributary to Porterville, Lindsay and Exeter, and second, the territory tributary to Dinuba. It is to be expected that the three most important towns of the county in the future will be Porterville, Lindsay and Dinuba, though Exeter, Visalia and Tulare will undoubtedly grow steadily.

In racial composition the Tulare County population is to a greater extent native American than most California counties. The native whites of native parentage number about 70%, and of foreign or mixed parentage about 16% of the total population. The foreign born whites

are 11%, and the remainder are Negroes, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and other non-whites. For the state as a whole the percentages are: Native white of native parentage, 46.5% ; of foreign or mixed parentage, 26.7% ; foreign born whites, 21.8% ; all others, 5%. Only one county in the state, Modoc, a mountain county, with a total population of less than 7,000, can show a higher percentage of native whites of native parentage than Tulare County.

Of the non-whites the larger proportion are Japanese. They have been increasing rapidly the last twenty years, while the Chinese have been decreasing in numbers. There are a few Koreans. These Orientals are largely found in segregated sections of the west side towns. The few Hindoos in the county are scattered. The Indians are about a constant quantity, and are mostly confined to the Tule River Indian Reservation or vicinity. The Negroes have been increasing in number during the last ten years. Most of them are in the negro colony at Allensworth, near the Kings County line.

Of the foreign whites, the largest single group is of German birth or parentage. The other races, with a considerable representation in the order of their numerical importance are the Canadian, Russian, Mexican, Swedish, English, Italian, Portuguese, Armenian, Austrian and Swiss. Of the non-English speaking races, the largest proportion of direct immigration from the Mother Country in this generation is shown by the Mexicans, Portuguese, Armenians and Italians. A fair proportion of the others are a generation away from the "old country."

The Germans are most numerous in the vicinity of Porterville and Dinuba. The Swedish colony centers in Kingsburg. The Portuguese are the coming dairymen of the valley, and are largely found in the dairy sections. The Mexicans and Italians are the day laborers, and are scattered. The Swiss are largely in the northeastern part of the county, the Danes in the Porterville district, the Russians in the southeastern part, and the Austrians scattered through the southern half of the county. The Armenians are practically all living in the Armenian Colony at Yettem. The Mexicans are the most constantly shifting of these foreign groups. The northern European groups are being quite rapidly assimilated in language and customs, though the German and Swedish people still use their own language to a considerable extent in their homes and churches. The southern Europeans, Mexicans and Orientals are mostly colonized or segregated, and are not being assimilated. The Mexicans, Austrians, Italians and Russians are, for the most part, on a low economic and social scale. The Armenians are working against many handicaps toward land ownership, freedom from debt and relative prosperity. Many of the Portu-

guese are doing well. Of the other foreign whites, many are numbered among the substantial farmers of the county.

Of the strictly American population the "native sons" are in the minority. Nearly every state east of the Rockies has contributed of its people. Probably the largest contingents are from Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri.

Adult males form a far larger proportion of the foreign population than of the native stock. In some groups, notably, of course, the Orientals, the men are greatly in the majority. Foreign stock furnishes approximately 38% of all the men of voting age in the county, as against 30% of the total population. More than half of these are naturalized. It is to be expected that those of foreign birth would be in general on a lower cultural level than those of native birth. Illiteracy is one test. The number of native whites who are illiterate is a negligible proportion. About 13% of the foreign whites and over 17% of the Negroes are illiterate.

Chapter 2—Some Community Characteristics.

The rapid increase of population has not been altogether by permanent acquisition, either as regards the County or its several communities. There has been continually a considerable shifting, particularly noticeable in some sections. A rapidly growing community, a shifting community, a community of diverse racial elements might be expected to show many marks of instability. Add to this a large annual influx of population at certain seasons of the year, made up in part of itinerant, seasonal workers, in part of property owners having their permanent residence elsewhere and in part of tourists, and you have a situation which would make the acquisition of community stability a slow and difficult process. As a single instance of the condition that makes the problem, we may take a prosperous, land-owning group, the orange growers around Porterville. Out of 327 present owners of orange groves here, 91 have moved into the community within the last five years, and 69 are non-residents—a little more than half are residents of over five years' standing. These 327 men represent a substantial proportion of the valuation of the taxable property in the district.

Normally, the surface indications of such a condition of instability would be found in the status of institutions like the church and the school, in the presence or lack of needed improvements, in the conduct of public business, etc. The deeper, more essential indications would have to be looked for in the community spirit, traditions, religions, cultural and social life, attitude toward progress and reform and gen-

eral social control. That the outward indications of instability are as few as they are is due to a combination of circumstances, operating to change the normally expected results. Chief among these are the advertising, "boom" spirit of the newer sections and the more or less unconscious rivalry between districts, together with the generally prevailing, substantial prosperity. This is particularly true of the towns, to a less extent of the country. Take for example the physical equipment of schools and churches. Many localities have put into school equipment much larger sums than one would expect; in some cases more than present circumstances warrant. Likewise, many churches have been given an equipment all out of proportion to their normal religious and financial strength and equally out of proportion to the subsequent response of the communities to their ministrations. All this on the principle that a town, to grow, must have a good school and church. In like manner, general public improvements are usually more than adequately supported, at least in comparison with many old settled sections of the country.

As regards the sub-surface indications, the condition is different. Most communities in the county have the astonishing virility of youth. They are growing rapidly in population and prosperity, and are determined to look the part and do. They are progressive and broad-minded. In public, as in private affairs, they operate on a large scale. They are accustomed to think in large units, and though not without local pride are or are becoming relatively free from that narrow provincialism which is the besetting sin of so many rural communities. Their appreciation of the value of organization is expressed in their Boards of Trade, fraternal and social organizations, women's clubs, co-operative associations and similar movements. Local and county affairs are conducted on a non-partisan basis (in accordance with the state law). For sound business reasons they have supported many necessary social reforms, such as the suppression of the liquor problem and the regulation of gambling. An example of the flexibility and entire adequacy of the machinery which is available for getting certain kinds of things done is provided by the truly remarkable county exhibit at the San Diego Exposition. All this and much more is very greatly to their credit. It means that these communities are creating a very wholesome body of tradition, and are developing for themselves some very useful social machinery.

At the same time there are many things to remind us that the breeziness of youth and the mellow culture and refinements of age do not often alike characterize the same individuals or the same communities. We will have occasion at a later point to mention certain character-



WOMAN'S CLUB, TULARE

istics of the early settlement of this region. Suffice it to say here that most of the substantial progress is of recent occurrence, and that what remains of the pioneer spirit is reactionary in tendency. These communities have had to be re-created. Their earlier days have made practically no permanent contributions either in temper or policy. When we consider what their future will be we may say that in a very real sense they have no past. There is still too much of a flux in their affairs to give one any feeling of permanence. One is tempted to say that for many years to come the county will appear to be too large for its clothes. Another thoroughly Californian characteristic is here noticeable. California, more perhaps than any other state in the Union, feels itself constantly on exhibition. Each of its component parts says constantly to the world at large, "Here I am; I am beautiful and prosperous; come, admire me." Everything in the State—farms, mountains, forests, parks and all—is on the counter, price-marked and for sale. If we may believe her agents, California is a very "great bargain." There is something rather irritating about this to the disinterested spectator who longs to discover one beautiful thing in the State whose charms have not been flaunted at him from every bulletin board, and which he has not been persistently urged to inspect, rent, purchase or otherwise enjoy. He remembers that there is such a thing as being too proud of your community to over-praise her in every passing ear.

On the other hand, California's residents have themselves an undoubted appreciation of beauty, and the state is undoubtedly characterized by a growing idealism. This is expressed, for one thing, in much

of her recent legislation, which shows an intelligent interest in a vast variety of social problems. Nowhere is this idealism more noticeable than in the San Joaquin valley, where, among many influences tending in this direction, one may particularly mention the *Fresno Republican*, the one really distinguished newspaper in the state which circulates widely through the valley. There are many problems for this spirit to cope with which will test it severely. Such problems as are presented by the unemployed and by the casual worker, by the necessity of assimilating many diverse racial elements, by the question of the social control of the individual, particularly of the unattached individuals so characteristic of the West—to mention only a few—are what test any community's inherent strength. One wishes that the Boards of Trade and similar organizations, very excellent in their way, would view their opportunities in a different light and adopt some broader plan of action which would look to the upbuilding of the country in other ways than by advertising it.

There is very little resembling social caste in the county. In this connection certain generalizations may safely be made. Each of the various foreign communities, such as the German Lutheran community at Deer Creek, the Mennonite community west of Dinuba, the Swedish community near Kingsburg, the Armenian community at Yettam, is, in the main, of a single economic and social level. Elsewhere the people very generally fraternize together, without many hard and fast lines being drawn, except on the basis of racial differences. Of course, there are the usual social groupings on the basis of



PORTERVILLE LIBRARY



DINUBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

taste, congeniality, religious preference, business interests, and so forth.

In most parts of the county there is developing quite a well-defined community consciousness. This is advanced by the spirit of advertising and development, but hindered by the fact that so much of the economic and social life of the county centers in the half-dozen large towns. The more important social gatherings, wherever held, are apt to draw from long distances. Yet in most localities, whether country or town, where there are enough people living sufficiently near together there is a fairly well-developed community social life. It may be remarked, too, that in California a good deal is made of the county. This is the unit for the transaction of most of the common business, and is also the unit in a good deal of the advertising. The county, therefore, figures quite largely in the individual's localizing of himself.

It is probable that matters connected with the business interests of the county, particularly farming, are the largest factors in directing public opinion. The individuals who have a considerable degree of personal influence owe their leadership usually to their business connections. Ministers and teachers, with a few exceptions, exercise little direct control over men's opinions and actions, partly, at least, because their tenure of position is usually so brief. The different public officials, of course, by virtue of their positions, exercise a varying degree of influence. The more important ones appear to have the confidence of the people, who seem to consider that their local and county affairs are well taken care of—as they are.

In the matter of housing conditions, it is difficult to generalize for



BOOSTING STRATHMORE

any part of the county. In all the towns, and most farming sections, are to be seen many attractive homes. Equally prevalent are shacks and temporary structures of almost every sort. Made-over freight cars, one-room houses, structures ultimately destined to be pump houses, house wagons, buildings half frame, half tent-cloth—almost anything imaginable in the way of a shelter will serve as a dwelling for some family. In this respect it is a county of curious contrasts.

The cost of living is, on the whole, not excessive, even for those who are not in a position to grow a part of their living. Rents are high; fuel is expensive (and more of it needed than one might think), but foodstuffs are very reasonable in price.

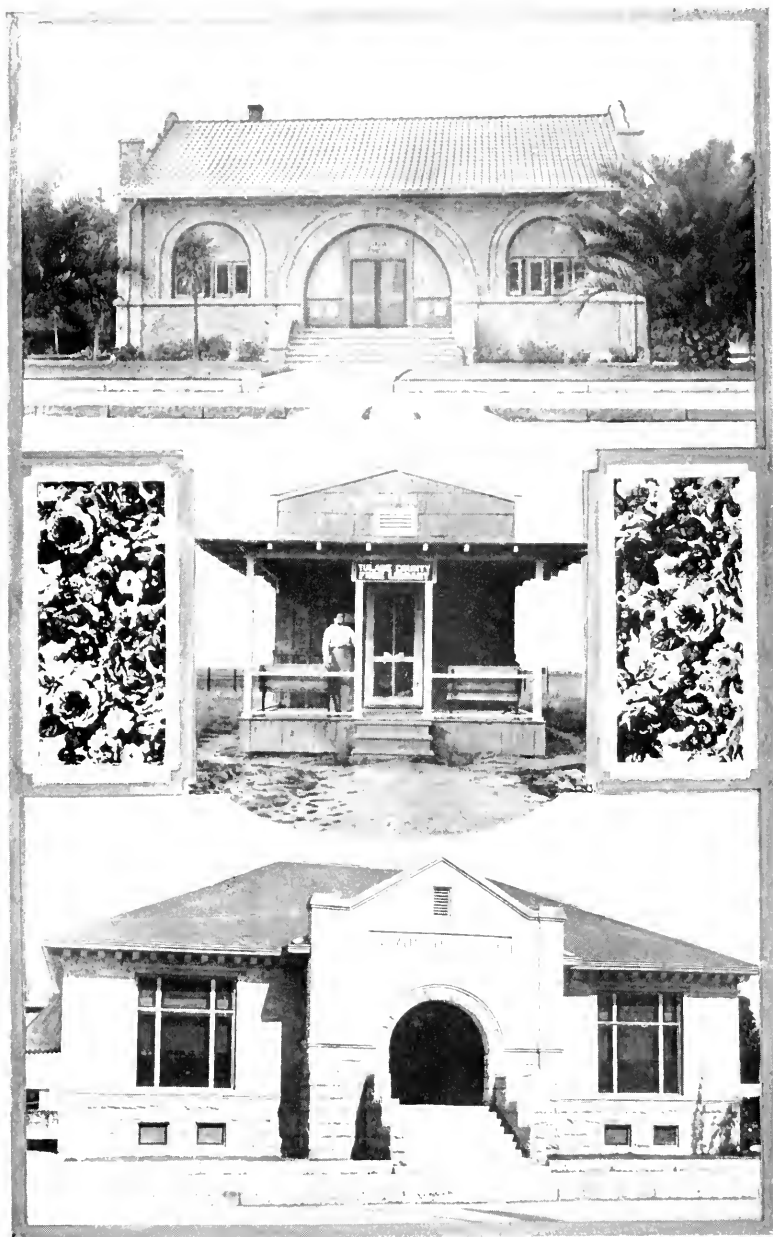
Chapter 3—Organization, Recreation and Morality.

Scattered throughout the county are many organizations of many sorts—commercial, civic, social, fraternal, athletic, literary, agricultural, educational and religious. Those coming under the last two heads will be discussed separately. To make a detailed list of the names, functions and activities of all the others would be a tedious and, for our present purpose, profitless undertaking. There is hardly a corner of the county that would not be represented in such a list. Some of these organizations are local in character; some represent whole districts, while others are practically county-wide in scope. The County Board of Trade is the most active, and in many respects the most important of all these organizations. It has its headquarters at Visalia, the County Seat. Its membership includes twenty-one local Boards of Trade or Chambers of Commerce, representing respectively,

Dinuba, Ducor, Exeter, Lindsay, Orosi, Porterville, Tulare, Terra Bella, Springville, Visalia, Strathmore, Alpaugh, Cutler, Klink, Farmersville, Lemon Cove, Pixley, Sultana, Three Rivers, Tipton and Woodlake. These organizations exist primarily to advertise their local resources, though their function in their communities is actually much broader than that. The Grange, and almost all of the fraternal organizations, are well represented in the county. Women's clubs, Civic Improvement clubs, Women's Boards of Trade, or similar organizations, are in the more important communities. The other organizations play an important part in the social, literary and business life of the county. During the past season many of them have given plays, festivals, carnivals, or other functions of a public or semi-public character.

Except in the most isolated localities the recreation facilities are, in the main, adequate. Public functions, such as dances, plays, festivals, etc., draw from a large territory. The larger places have their moving-picture theatres, showing the usual collection of excellent, indifferent and trashy films. There is a growing tendency in some of the theatres, at least, to show a better grade of pictures. The stock theatres show the regular grade of "road shows," ranging from "Everywoman" and "Peg o' My Heart" to "Mutt and Jeff" and the "Sunshine Girls." In Visalia a new and very excellent playhouse has just been opened, and will hereafter bill most of the attractions which play Fresno, which will include some superior productions. There are few opportunities afforded the county to hear good music, the better class of musical entertainments not receiving very good support. The High Schools, and most of the larger grammar schools, have some form of organized athletics. The movement to establish parks and play-grounds is well under way. The towns are fairly overrun with pool-rooms, which apparently do a thriving business. The mountains are accessible to everyone, and offer unrivalled opportunities for tramping, hunting, fishing and camping. To a far less extent than is often the case are the recreation facilities exploited for financial gain.

Moral conditions are, in the main, good. There are no saloons in the county, and a conscientious effort is made to curtail the illicit selling of liquor. There is little gambling, though lotteries, guessing contests and similar devices of a mild sort abound. There is no longer any flagrant social evil, and crime in general is more infrequent than one might expect. Within the last half-dozen years there has been a marked improvement in moral conditions. There is generally no strict observance of the Sabbath, which, in many sections, is the big day of the week, from a recreation standpoint. Many games and entertainments of various sorts are scheduled for that day, and a



A GROUP OF TULARE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

number of moving-picture theatres are open Sundays, both afternoon and evening.

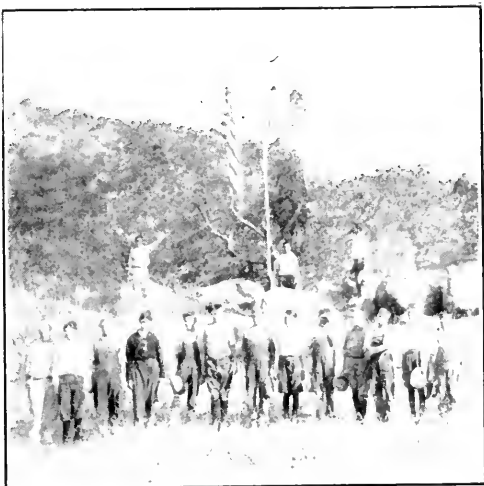
Chapter 4—Some County Institutions.

A study of the civil government of the county, and of the methods of conducting public business, would be very interesting and profitable, if it were sufficiently germane to the purpose of this survey to warrant it. It will be necessary to disregard all but two or three points. The office of the County Horticultural Commissioner is of very great importance in connection with the fruit industry of the county. His work is primarily that of an horticultural health officer. It is his duty to examine all shipments of fruit trees or vines coming into the county, to prevent the introduction of any infected stock; to see that proper steps are taken to protect the county against the ravages of any pest that may have found lodgement in orchard or vineyard, and, in general, to advance the horticultural interests of the county. He is given sufficient funds to employ necessary inspectors, and otherwise carry on the work of the office. There is a County Board of Forestry and a County Forester, whose general concern is the shade and ornamental trees on the highways and other public property in the county.

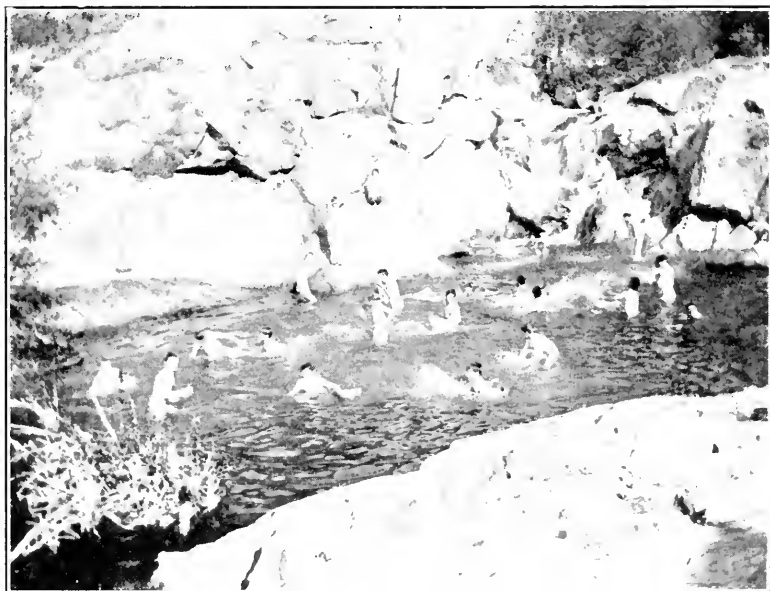
One of the most important county institutions is the County Library, which is rapidly extending its range of influence. In 1913 this library had twenty-eight branches scattered through the county. One year later it had fifty-four, and last fall the number had increased to sixty-three. In addition, it co-operates with the city libraries maintained in Visalia, Porterville and Tulare. The total operating expense of the County Library for the year ending June 30th, 1914, was about \$12,000. This year it will be about \$15,000. The library owns 13,500 volumes, and has access to the State Library's 200,000 volumes. Each branch receives fifty volumes of general character every three months at county expense, as well as special volumes which may have been requested. Packages of books will also be sent by parcel post wherever needed. Last year 2,400 special requests for books were filled. Books on every line of research will be sent whenever requested, if obtainable. The Library aims to foster interest in reading and to establish branches everywhere in the county where there are no library facilities. Books may be secured from the State Library and sent at State expense direct to the borrower's home station. In addition, individual borrowers may obtain books directly from the County or State Library by parcel post without expense. The three city libraries together have about 6,000 registered readers, *i. e.*, card holders and the sixty-three county branches have about 7,000 more, 13,000 in all, or more than

one-fourth of the county's population. Of the sixty-three branches at present maintained, twenty-eight are in public schools, eight are in separate reading rooms with salaried custodians, twenty-seven are in stores or private homes.

Another highly important county institution which is, however, unofficial in character, is the County Y. M. C. A. This was organized in January, 1914, but has already more than justified its existence, having indeed in its first year captured the state record for the number of groups of boys and young men organized and the total number of members enrolled. Operating on a budget last year of a little over \$3,300, the first annual report shows the following tangible results of the work:



Y. M. C. A. CAMP



THE Y. M. C. A. CAMP SWIMMING HOLE

220 boys attended camps or went on hikes under competent leaders.
 22 groups, with 316 members, were organized for Bible study and recreation. The leaders included 3 ranchers, 4 business men, 1 minister, 3 students, 5 school principals and 5 other teachers.
 282 men and boys attended various conferences and conventions.
 102 boys were given physical examinations.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Attendance 3 Father and Son Banquets..... | 304 |
| “ 18 Stunt Nights | 401 |
| “ .. Addresses at Schools..... | 830 |
| “ 38 General Talks | 3,061 |
| Number proposed conversions | 27 |
| “ leaders at work during year..... | 25 |
| “ men and boys participating in work..... | 400 |
| “ men interviewed | 1,000 |
| “ leaders and committeemen..... | 79 |
| “ pieces mail matter sent out..... | 3,000 |
| “ miles traveled by secretary..... | 6,500 |

The Association has a full-time salaried Secretary, with headquarters at Lindsay. For the first year of work the above constitutes a splendid record when the size and nature of the county are considered, and promises much for the future. The work so far has been in the more populous centers and where leaders could be obtained. As fast as leaders are found or developed elsewhere the work will be extended.

PART IV.

EDUCATION.

Chapter 1—Organization and Finance.

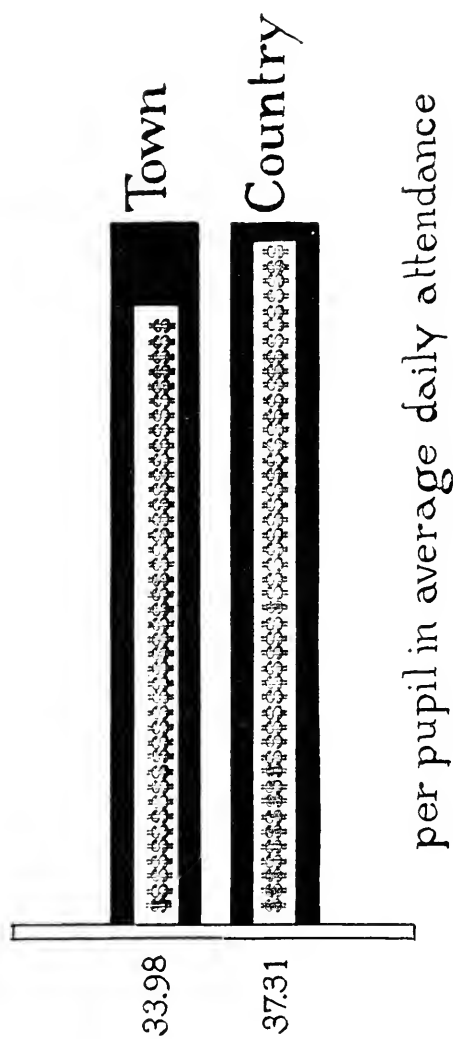
The elementary schools of California are organized on a semi-county or county and district basis. The entire county is divided into local school districts, varying in size and population, in each of which there is one school or more, according to need. Each district has a board of three trustees, holding office for three years and elected in rotation. There is a County Superintendent, elected by the people of the County at large at the time of each gubernatorial election, and also a County Board of Education, consisting of the County Superintendent as Secretary and four others appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The four so appointed hold office for two years each, and two are appointed each year. A majority of them must be experienced teachers, holding not lower than grammar school certificates in full force. If there are High Schools in the County, at least one member of the Board must hold a certificate of High School grade. The entire control over the elementary schools of the county, subject to the general laws of the State, is vested in these three sources of authority. The duties of each are carefully defined by statute. Their more important functions, omitting matters pertaining only to the routine of administration, may be summarized as follows: The Superintendent is (*a*) to superintend the work of the schools of the county; (*b*) to apportion the school funds among the various districts; (*c*) on the order of any Board of School Trustees to make his requisition upon the County Auditor for all necessary expenses chargeable against the school funds of that district (the County Treasurer being custodian of all school funds); (*d*) to visit and examine each school in the County at least once each year; (*e*) to arrange for and preside over an annual teachers' institute, and see that all teachers attend same; (*f*) to pass upon and approve of or reject all plans for new school houses; (*g*) to fill vacancies which may occur in any Board of Trustees during term; (*h*) to issue temporary teachers' certificates. The County Board of Education has power to (*a*) examine applicants and grant teachers' certificates; (*b*) adopt a list of books and apparatus from which all selections must be made for the district school libraries; (*c*) issue diplomas of graduation from the elementary schools; (*d*) prescribe

the course of study to be followed in each grade of the elementary schools. The duties of the District Board of Trustees are to (a) prescribe and enforce rules for the government of the school or schools of their district, not inconsistent with the law or the rules prescribed by the State Board of Education; (b) manage and control all school property; (c) purchase school furniture and apparatus, following the specifications, if any, of the County Board of Education; (d) when directed by vote of the district build school houses or purchase or sell lots; (e) employ the necessary teachers and janitors, fix and order paid their compensation; (f) in general, control all the local affairs of the school, such as discipline, care and use of buildings and grounds, enforcement of prescribed course of study, etc. Each of them is required to visit each school in his district at least once a year. It will be observed that this method of organization preserves some of the weak points inherent in the district system, while adding many of the strong points of the county unit system of organization. Certain of these points will be referred to at a later point in the discussion.

Three parties are concerned in the financing of the schools—State, County and District. The bulk of the maintenance money comes from State and County funds. The District may vote to supplement these funds for maintenance, and has the entire expense of providing all necessary equipment except text books, which are furnished free by the State, and library books and apparatus, which are provided for by a County fund. The State school funds are apportioned on the basis of \$250 per year for every teacher to which the district is entitled, and the balance on the basis of the average daily attendance for the preceding year. The minimum which the County is allowed to appropriate is the difference between the amount received from the State and \$550 for each teacher. This must not amount to less than \$13 for each pupil in average daily attendance. If more is given, it is apportioned on the basis of attendance. A District is considered to be entitled to one teacher for the first 35 pupils or less in average daily attendance, and one additional teacher for each additional 35 or fraction thereof not less than 10. Where there are less than 10 above 35 or multiple, \$40 of State and County money is allowed for each pupil additional. All State money, and not less than 50% of the County money, must be spent for salaries of teachers. The County tax may not exceed 50c. on each \$100 valuation. The District is allowed to vote a building tax at a rate not to exceed 70c. on the \$100, or a maintenance tax not to exceed 30c.

Last year the County tax was 35c. on the \$100, and the apportion-

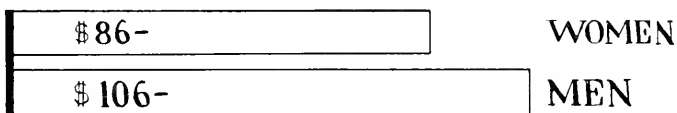
Average Annual Cost of Education



A LIVING WAGE FOR TEACHERS

AVERAGE MONTHLY SALARY

155 RURAL and VILLAGE TEACHERS



ment of State and County money was \$550 per teacher and \$20 per pupil, which included the library fund. This last is a special fund for the purchase of library books and apparatus. The law provides that not less than 5%, nor more than 10%, of the County school fund due each district shall constitute a library fund, provided that this amount shall not exceed \$50 per year, unless there are 5 or more teachers employed in the district, when it shall be not less than \$10, nor more than \$15, per teacher. This means that the smallest and poorest rural school can in the course of a few years build up a fine working library of general and supplemental works.

During the last year 19 districts outside the larger towns voted a special tax for maintenance, the rate varying from 5c. to 30c. on the \$100; 49 levied a tax (bond issue) for building purposes, the rate here varying from 5c. to 56c.

This method of financing the schools insures sufficient funds to every district for at least a reasonably efficient school. The provision regarding the proportion of the funds which must be used for salaries means salaries that at the minimum are well above the average paid rural school teachers the country over. For example, a school has, let us say, an average attendance of 25. It receives \$550 and \$20 per pupil or \$1,050. Deducting \$50 for a library fund, without voting any money to the district, the school could pay its teacher \$75 a month for nine months and have \$325 left for contingent expenses. A further advantage is that the financially strong communities in this way help pay at least the minimum expenses necessary for the maintenance of adequate schools in those communities which are financially weak.

There were during 1913-14, 127 school districts, wholly or partly in Tulare County, maintaining elementary schools. The total maintenance expense for the year was \$289,444.84, and the expense for new

buildings, sites and furniture was \$88,318.90; a grand total of \$377,763.74. About 46% of this total was incurred by the districts representing the six largest towns—Visalia, Porterville, Tulare, Lindsay, Dinuba and Exeter. For the remainder of the county the maintenance expense was \$156,971.39, and the expense for buildings, sites, etc., \$56,735.19; a total of \$213,706.58. The maintenance expense may be itemized as follows: salaries, \$120,857.83, or 77%; library books and apparatus, \$3,474.65, or 3.5%; contingent expenses, \$29,637.91, or 19.5%. The total enrollment for the year was 8,105 (3,798 in the six towns; 4,307 in the country), and the average daily attendance was 6,899 (3,358 and 3,541). The total maintenance cost for the year would therefore average \$35.71 per pupil on the basis of enrollment, or \$41.95 on the basis of average daily attendance—a remarkable high average for similar conditions. This is the more remarkable, however, when it is observed that the average cost of maintaining the rural schools considerably exceeds the cost of the town schools. On the basis of enrollment, the cost in the towns was \$33.98 per pupil; in the country, \$37.31; the difference is slightly more marked when figured on the basis of attendance, being \$39.45 for the towns and \$44.33 for the country. Such a difference would be expected under the California system, since the rural schools averaging smaller in size would average higher in the amount of State and County money received per capita. How unusual this is for the entire country will be seen when it is remembered that the average annual expenditure on rural school children in the entire United States probably does not exceed \$15.00. The difference is very greatly to California's credit, though it brings to light one weakness inherent in the district system. At least a partial consolidation of the smaller district schools could be effected, particularly in sections having schools near together and with good roads, which would give educational results of equal or greater value at a proportionately lower expense. But consolidation is proverbially difficult to effect under a district system of organization.

The total valuation of all elementary school property for the county is \$934,490, of which amount \$852,650 is in buildings, sites and furniture; \$44,790 in libraries, and \$37,050 in apparatus. The bonded indebtedness of the various districts aggregates \$449,615, a little more than half of the valuation. For the country schools, the figures are: buildings, sites and furniture, \$409,650; libraries, \$37,590; apparatus, \$28,850; total, \$476,090, with a bonded indebtedness of \$283,315. These items have been somewhat increased this current year through the construction of several new buildings and the voting of building bonds in several more.

Chapter 2—Buildings, Equipment and Grounds.

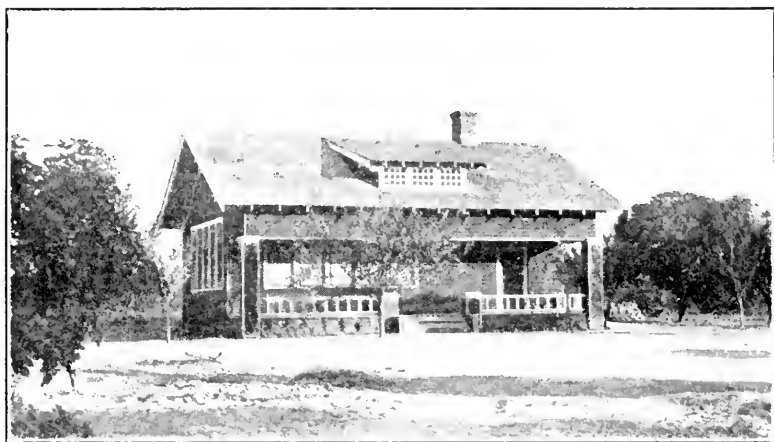
The rest of the data presented on elementary schools is for the current year, 1914-15, and is only for those schools visited during the course of this survey. Certain omissions from the entire roster of schools are to be noted. Since the interest of this survey is primarily in the rural and small village



THE NEW \$23,000 AND THE OLD SCHOOL
BUILDING AT TIPTON

communities, the schools in the six larger towns are omitted. There are ten joint districts in this county, *i. e.*, districts which include territory from two or more counties. Six of these—the Agenda, Clay, Cutler, Harrison, Kingsburg and Reedley Districts—have their school buildings located outside the bounds of Tulare County and are therefore omitted. Seven other schools especially difficult of access during the winter months were not reached by the investigator. These are Coho, Long Valley, Drum Valley, Cottonwood, Ash Springs, Eshom Valley and Oak Flat, all situated in the mountains. They are also omitted. There remain 108 districts, a sufficiently large proportion of the whole number to give an adequate view of conditions. To these are added two church or parochial schools in the country; one maintained by the German Lutheran Church, near Terra Bella; taught by the minister of the church; and one by the Seventh Day Adventist congregation at Venice; taught by a hired teacher. There are also parochial schools at Visalia and Dinuba, but they are not included.

These 110 schools occupied this year 111 buildings, of which 97 are of frame construction, 11 of brick, 3 of cement or plaster; 4 of these buildings are omitted from the discussions of this chapter except regarding grounds and equipment for recreation. Two of these are Buena Vista and Tipton, which, when visited, occupied old buildings in poor condition, but which had new buildings in course of construction which will be ready for occupancy before the end of this school year. The other two are Alpaugh (which shares an eight-room building with the High School), and Orosi, which occupies a six-room building of modern construction. Several districts occupying old buildings

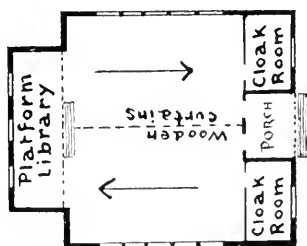
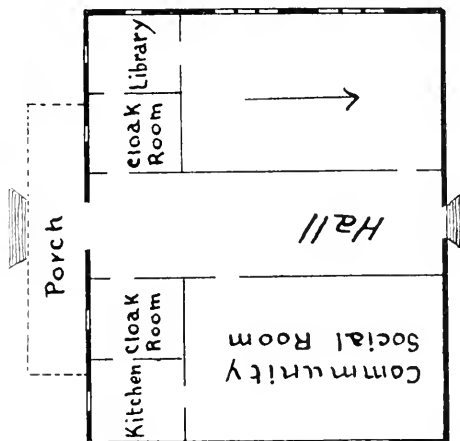
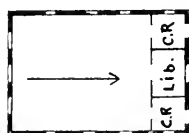
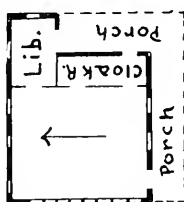
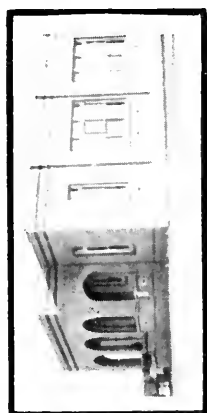


SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL, DINUBA

have since voted bonds for new buildings, but are here included since the work of construction had not been commenced when visited. We are then in this chapter considering 107 buildings of 104 public school districts and two parochial schools. Several of these buildings are not owned by the districts using them.

In these 107 buildings there are 160 rooms, not counting libraries or cloak-rooms. 137 are regularly used for school purposes. Of the remaining 23 rooms, several were built for auditoriums; the others for class-rooms, for which there is as yet no need. 15 schools have one class-room or more beyond present needs. 74 of the buildings are one-room buildings; 23 have two rooms each; 5 have three rooms; 2 have four, and 3 have five. All but nine of the buildings have at least one cloak-room each, the majority having two. 80 of the buildings have library rooms. In some of the older, poorly planned buildings, these libraries are small and inadequate for the purpose, often being mere closets. Many of the buildings, however, have well-lighted and conveniently arranged library rooms.

It is not to be expected that a group of buildings erected over a considerable period of time and representing the ideas of many different Boards of Trustees as to what a school-house should be like, would show uniform excellence of plan and equipment, even though the law gives the County Superintendent the right to pass upon all plans—a most commendable provision. The weak points in most rural school plans the country over, and for that matter in the majority of the older schools wherever located, concern the lighting, heating and ventilation—three matters vitally connected not only with the work of the



SOME SCHOOL PLANS GOOD and BAD

→ indicates direction
seats face

not drawn to uniform scale

school but with the health of the pupils. A large majority of the schools under consideration offend at these three points. The first is the most important. The "rule of thumb" for lighting is that the window space in a room should equal at least one-fifth of the floor space, and that the light should come preferably from the pupils left only or from the left and rear. Under no circumstances should there be a cross-light, *i. e.*, from both right and left, or a front light. The north light is the best since it involves the least glare and does not need to be softened to exclude the direct rays of the sun. It is, of course, well-known that these principles were not in the least considered in the construction of most of the rural schools now in use in this country.

With a very few exceptions the school rooms under consideration have a sufficient amount of window space. It is the arrangement of the windows that is at fault. In general we may say that in 19 rooms that lighting is highly satisfactory; in 24 or 25 others reasonably so. A re-arrangement of the seats would give a number of other rooms satisfactory lighting, and the close curtaining of certain windows would perform a like service for others. In from 65 to 70 rooms the lighting is very poor. A considerable number of rooms which are, in fact, rather poorly lighted, were in the intent of the architect well planned, or could easily be made so. For example, a number of schools have at the front of the room a library almost, or quite the width of the room, shut off by folding-doors, or a wooden curtain, and with several large windows, in many respects a very convenient arrangement. It happens, however, in a number of cases that these doors are habitually kept open and the windows uncurtained, making in effect a strong front light. A number of other rooms had small windows at the front of the room, placed high; presumably they are there for ventilation, although since, with one exception, they were kept closed they hardly fulfilled that function. Such front light is, of course, not very injurious; at the same time it is not desirable. 19 rooms received light from the pupils' left only; 24 others from left and rear only. 11 others had a predominatingly left light, with other windows at right or front, or both. 4 rooms had windows on the right only, and 5 others a predominatingly right light. One had a predominatingly rear light. 43 rooms received light equally from right and left; 12 from right, left and rear; 6 from right, left and front. To summarize:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Light from one side..... | 23 rooms |
| Light from two sides..... | 83 rooms |
| Light from three sides..... | 27 rooms |
| Light from four sides..... | 2 rooms |

135 rooms

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Left light predominates..... | 44 | rooms |
| Right light predominates..... | 9 | rooms |
| Rear light predominates..... | 1 | room |
| Light equally from two or more sides..... | 81 | rooms |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 135 | rooms |
| Cross light (with or without front or rear light)..... | 67 | |
| Front light (whether or not contemplated in plan)..... | 19 | |

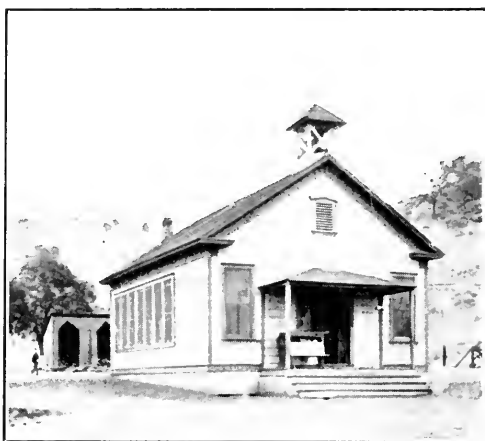
It is only fair to say that few counties could show as high an average of well-lighted schools. In general, it may be said that almost all the well-planned buildings have been erected within the last five years. Few buildings have been erected within that time but are or could easily be made highly satisfactory in this regard.

Heating and ventilation are not serious problems here for as many months of the year as in more severe climates, but they are important enough to deserve more attention than they receive. Very few of the schools have any adequate method of heating or ventilation. The three usual methods of heating are, of course, furnace, jacketed stove or unjacketed stove. Either of the first two, with proper installation, is satisfactory, and the problem of ventilation can easily be handled at the same time. The unjacketed stove is almost never satisfactory. The item of expense eliminates the furnace from consideration in the average one-room rural school. The difference in cost, however, between the jacketed and the unjacketed stove is all out of proportion to the difference in their value. A jacketed stove of correct design, properly installed, will heat an ordinarily large school-room in such a way that the variations of temperature in different parts of the room



ENTERING SCHOOL AT STRATHMORE

will not exceed 4 or 5 degrees. The unjacketed stove, operating by direct radiation, can only heat the distant parts of the room to a sufficient warmth by unduly heating the parts near to it, the result being that most of the room is either too hot or too cold. The usual method of alternately "firing up" and cooling down by opening the windows is obviously bad. Of the 137 rooms under consideration, 11 are fur-



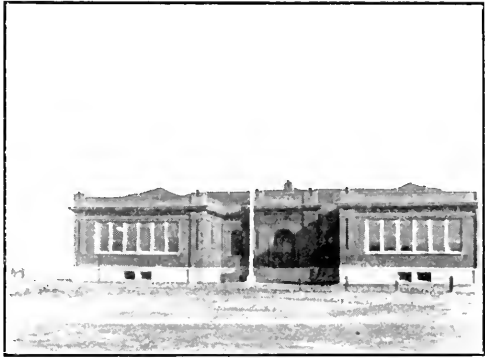
SOUTH TULE SCHOOL. NOTE ARRANGEMENT OF WINDOWS

nace heated; 8 are heated by jacketed stoves, and the remaining 118 by unjacketed stoves. As for ventilation, few rooms have any other method than by admitting the air in direct draughts upon the children from windows or doors, and by opening up everything at recess. In a crowded room especially this is not adequate or desirable.

Another point of almost equal importance concerns the facilities for seating the pupils. Most of the old-fashioned, and many of the new-fashioned, school desks are apparently not constructed with the human form in mind. It is particularly true of those desks whose height cannot be adjusted that almost invariably they induce the children to assume unnatural and injurious postures. The adjustable desks remedy the matter of height, but are often not much more desirable in shape. They are, however, almost always an improvement for rural schools, where one year may see a big proportion of large children and the next a great array of little tots. The double desk is not to be advised under any circumstances, its only advantage being economy of space. Out of 137 rooms, 8 had double desks only; 6 had both double and single desks; 123 single desks only. Only seven rooms had all adjustable desks; 1 having both adjustable and non-adjustable. There are two prevailing methods of arranging the seats—one is to arrange them according to size from right to left, having the seats in each cross row of approximately the same size; the other, and as many think, the better method is to arrange them by uniform size from front to rear. The latter method is growing in favor. In some few schools there is no method of arrangement. In most of the rooms the seats are placed in rows which parallel the sides of the room. In one room,

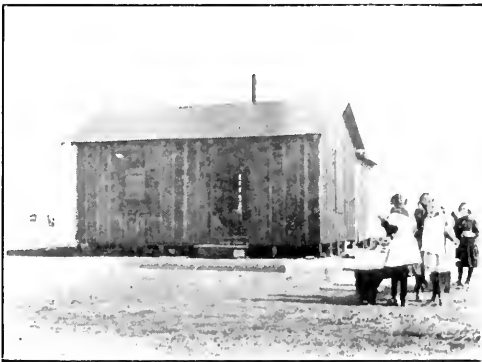
the rows are placed at an angle—a most excellent arrangement when, as in this case, the lighting is favorable, the light coming over the left shoulder of the pupil at a correct angle.

For general excellence of floor plan, such buildings as the one-room buildings of the Navalencia, Mountain Home, Oakland and Spa Districts, the two-



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE—\$20,000 SCHOOL BUILDING AT PIXLEY

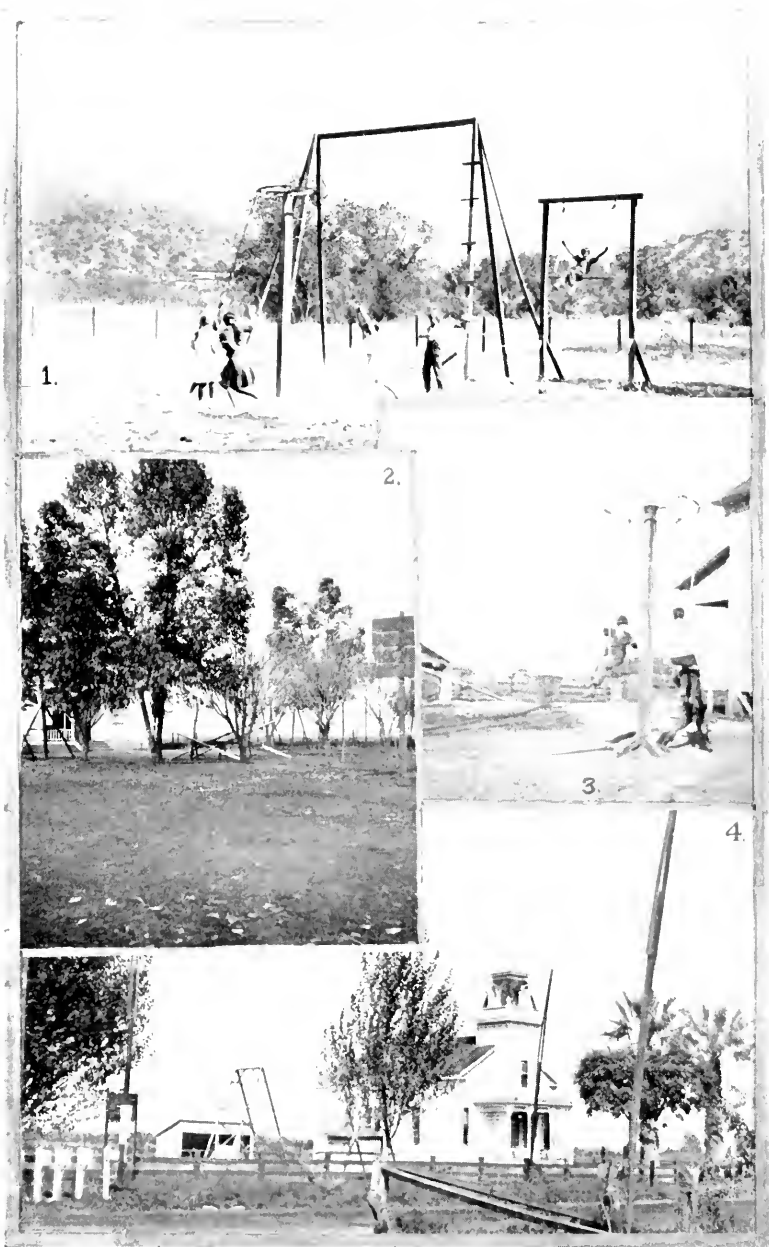
room buildings of the Lewis Creek, Yettem, Allensworth, Paloma, Liberty, Oakdale, Bliss and Prairie Center Districts, and the larger buildings of the Vandalia, Strathmore, Tipton and Pixley Districts may be mentioned as good examples of the better schools of the County. They are not all equally good, but all have many very excellent points. All but about 20 of the rooms have good quality blackboards in sufficient amounts. Three-foot boards are usual, though some of the rooms have four-foot boards. In more than half the rooms the boards are of slate. Most of the others have hypo-plate, cloth, or some similar substance. The balance have boards of wood. All but 25 of the schools have a musical instrument of some sort; 34 having pianos, 49 organs and 3 phonographs. All but 4 or 5 have globes and fair maps and charts. Nearly all have either good window shades or shutters. Very few have windows and doors fitted with fly-screens, which is



TEMPORARY SCHOOL BUILDING

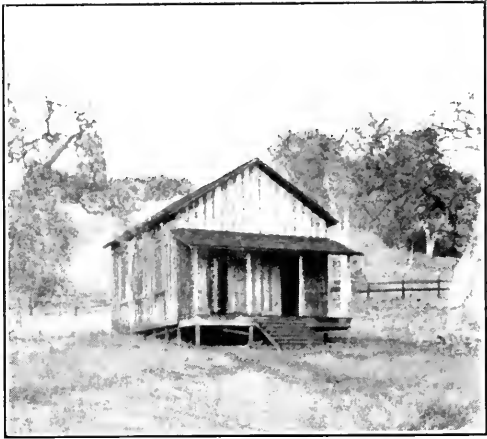
rather surprising, in view of the number of flies, but a considerable number have coarse-mesh screens to protect the windows from breakage during the children's games. About 65 schools are equipped with artificial lights, 15 being wired for electricity.

Many of the schools are very attractive, both in interior and exterior appearance, though there are



SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

enough which still maintain the tradition that a rural school should be innocent of beauty or adornment. Scattered here and there through the county one comes upon buildings of the sort that are to be found everywhere in the country—East and West, North and South; dull, unattractive looking places, to which any lover of beauty would hesitate to sentence a child for eight years. Such schools are

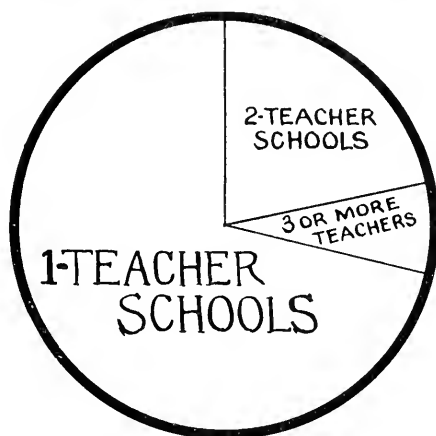


ELDA SCHOOL, AT TOP OF MOUNTAIN

the Dennison, Rural, Chatam, Zion, White River, Goshen, Kennedy, Columbine, Elda, Hanby, Miles, Hope, Rocky Ford, Saucelito, Fountain Springs, Wheatland, Burton—to mention some of the worst. Many of these have made some effort at decoration, but the general effect is unbeautiful. These, however, are not in the majority, while some of the schools are as attractive as one could well ask.

In the matter of decorations, 72 of the schools have each one or more framed pictures, while about 80 have unframed pictures. These pictures, numbering in all 380 framed and about 600 unframed, represent all degrees and sorts of taste; a good proportion of them, it must be admitted, possessing very little artistic merit. A cheap, fly-specked print of William McKinley, or of a horse dodging lightning bolts in a meadow, whatever value it may possess for instruction in patriotism or nature study has little importance as a work of art. There are a good many pictures, however, of considerable beauty, and it cannot be doubted that such have a real function to perform in a school-room. The South Tule, Lewis Creek, Taurusa, Willow, Packwood and Stone Corral schools are particularly worthy of mention in this respect. A number of schools, about 30, have used specimens of children's work—maps, drawings, and so on—with very good effect. Work of this kind, if well selected and mounted with care on a cloth or paper background, not only makes an attractive appearance, but has considerable educational value. One school made use of pennants very effectively for decoration; others had mottoes or streamers with varying results. Some 55 or 60 schools had potted plants to the number of over 300, while five had window boxes or hanging baskets. Of course, the pick

117 RURAL and VILLAGE SCHOOLS



of all the decorations in the world would not make a school-room attractive without proper arrangement and care. Many rather bare rooms were neat and pleasant; others were cluttered and disordered, and one seemed to think that was their natural way.

Turning now to matters of sanitation and cleanliness, all but about 10 schools have a sufficient supply of pure drinking water, either from a well or spring on the grounds or piped in. Six have "water-bubblers" either in the building or on the grounds. The common drinking cup is still more or less in evidence. Practically all the schools make provision for personal cleanliness in the shape of wash-basins, towels and soap. Six have running water in the cloak-rooms; though one so equipped has not water enough to permit its use. The common or roller-towel, that prime refuge for germs of all kinds, is not infrequently seen; the paper towel has also made its appearance, sanitary even if uncomfortable. Seven schools have toilets in the building; the others have outdoor toilets; in all but seven instances two to a school. These are generally places at a sufficient distance from the main building, and about a third of them are screened. The outdoor toilet, except when it can be water-flushed, is seldom entirely sanitary. The general practise here seems to be to inspect the toilets regularly, and as a result most of them were found to be in a very fair condition. There

was quite a noticeable absence of writing and markings on the toilet walls.

As regards school lots, there is every variation from no land at all owned by the district to tracts of five acres or more. Most of the schools have from one to three acres of land. With the exception of certain schools in the mountainous sections, these lots are all level. All but 25 of them are completely fenced in. Only five have walks, and in wet weather considerable mud is tracked into the rooms. All but 14 have at least a few trees; in several instances the schools are set in the midst of fine groves. Most of the schools aim to have vegetable or flower gardens, or both, where possible. The conditioning factors are water and cows, one pro and the other contra. The remedy for the latter is a good fence. As for the former, many of the schools have not now sufficient water for irrigation, and find the task of carrying water by hand too arduous to make gardening pleasant except on a small scale. The tendency, however, is to provide pumping plants and tanks, and many schools are already so provided. The gardens, where planted, are intended partly for decoration and partly for use in connection with nature study.

In many of the schools, something more than the usual rural school provisions for recreation have been made. There is usually a fairly adequate playground. 52 schools have no play apparatus at all, but the others are more or less well provided, as may be seen from the appended table:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| <i>Number of schools having—</i> | |
| Tennis courts | 6 |
| Captain-ball courts | 2 |
| Basket-ball courts | 38 |
| Giant strides | 6 |
| Teeters | 17 |
| Swings | 29 |
| Turning bars | 11 |
| Croquet sets | 4 |
| Traveling rings | 2 |

With few exceptions, the teachers superintend the play. Quite a number of schools have organized baseball, basket-ball, or track teams, and compete with neighboring schools. It was not an uncommon sight to see the teacher, lady or gentleman, behind the bat or in the pitching box during the noon-hour practise.

The State law provides that every school shall have a suitable United States flag, and display same outside of building while school is in session; also a smaller flag for use in the school-room. 84 schools when visited were found complying with the law as regards the flag outside, or refrained from doing so only because of rain, fog or an

accident to flag or pole. 26, lacking those excuses, displayed no flag. About two-thirds of the schools have flags in the school-rooms.

In concluding this chapter, we have only to say that the average of these schools as to buildings, grounds and equipment is very high. Commendable progress is being made. Definite steps have already been taken, and bonds voted to supplant some of the poorest buildings by adequate structures. Many of the newer buildings would do credit to any locality. The three modern buildings at Vandalia, Tipton and Pixley represent an aggregate outlay of more than \$60,000. While unlimited expenditure, especially on the district system, is not ideal, all recent bond issues attest the readiness of most sections of the county to support their schools in fitting fashion.

Chapter 3—The Teaching Force.

Eliminating the schools in the six larger towns, as before, and also in the joint districts whose buildings are not in Tulare County, the remaining 115 public and 2 parochial schools have in all 162 teachers, this current year. A division of the schools according to the number of teachers employed in each would give results as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|------|------|
| One-teacher schools | 84 | or | 72% |
| Two-teacher schools | 25 | or | 21% |
| Three-teacher schools | 6 | } or | 7% |
| Four-teacher schools | 1 | | |
| Six-teacher schools | 1 | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total schools | 117 | or | 100% |

The preponderance of one-teacher schools, 72% of the whole number, is another weakness inherent in the district system of organization. The topography of the county, and the distribution of population, make a certain number of one-teacher schools unavoidable. It will hardly be asserted, however, that in a one-teacher school the same efficiency of work can be attained, other things equal, as in a school of two or more teachers. It is probably true that the system of "one-teacher one-grade" has serious drawbacks. The system of "one-teacher eight-grades" is certain to make uniformly good work very difficult. The schedule is too crowded, the lesson period too brief, and the general demands upon the teacher's time too great. This, of course, does not apply with equal force to a school of small enrollment.

The data in the rest of the chapter are for 155 teachers in 108 public schools and 2 parochial schools, omitting the seven schools not visited during the survey. Of these 155 teachers, 18 are male, 137 are female, 5 of the men teachers are in one-teacher schools; the others are principals in schools of two or more teachers.

The financial support accorded the schools is the chief reason for the high average of excellence among the rural teachers of the county. Sufficiently large salaries are paid to attract college and normal-trained men and women to the country schools. They come, indeed, from all over the country, knowing that the average salary in California rural schools is higher than the average salary in town schools of the East and Middle West, for the same grade of work. The training of these 155 teachers for their work is set forth in the following table:

| | <i>Male.</i> | <i>Female.</i> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Less than High School..... | | 2 |
| High School only..... | 2 | 14 |
| Partial Normal or College course..... | 1 | 7 |
| Normal course only..... | 7 | 103 |
| College course only..... | 5 | 7 |
| Both College and Normal course..... | 2 | 2 |
| Post-graduate College or Normal..... | 1 | 2 |
| Totals | 18 | 137 |

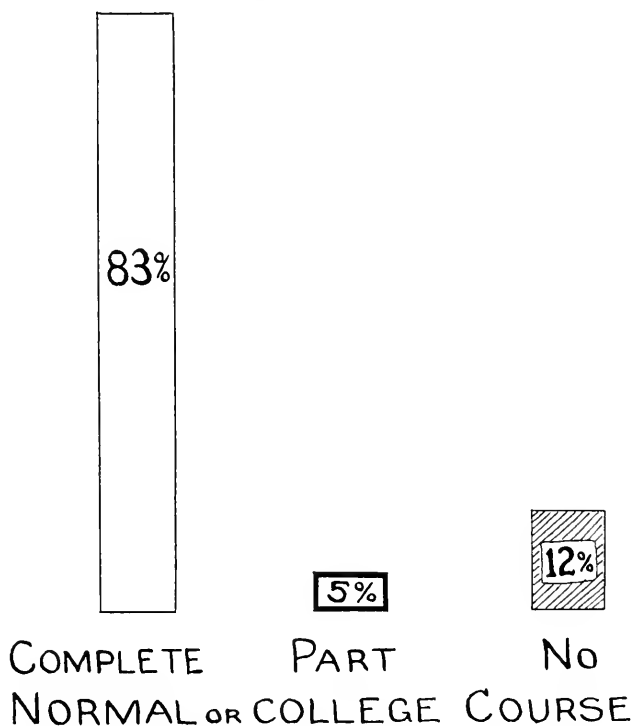
Eighty-four per cent of the entire number are college or normal graduates. The various normals of the state trained the greater number of these, with the San Jose normal leading in the number of graduates, but many eastern normals are represented. There is no difference in this respect between the village and the open country schools. Some of the most isolated schools in the county are taught by normal graduates.

As regards the number of experienced teachers, the condition is also very satisfactory. Out of 152 teachers, for whom data is available, only 36 are teaching for the first time this year. 76% have had one year or more of teaching experience. The detailed figures are:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|------------|------|
| Without previous experience..... | 36 | or | 24 % |
| With 1 year previous " | 29 | or | 19 % |
| " 2 years " " | 12 | or | 8 % |
| " 3 " " " | 14 | or | 9 % |
| " 4 " " " | 10 | or | 6.5% |
| " 5-9 " " " | 29 | or | 19 % |
| " 10-14 " " " | 9 | } or 14.5% | |
| " 15-19 " " " | 7 | | |
| " 20 years or more " | 6 | | |
| | 152 | | |

This shows an unusually high proportion of experienced teachers. As regards continuity of service in a single school, the record is not so favorable, though even here it is much above the usual rural school average. Of 153 teachers, 68 are now teaching their first year in their present schools, 55 are teaching their second, 14 their third, 7 their fourth, and 4 their fifth year; four have been in their present positions from six to ten years; only one had occupied the same position for

155 RURAL AND VILLAGE TEACHERS



**TRAINED TEACHERS
MAKE
EFFICIENT SCHOOLS POSSIBLE**

eleven years or more, and it may be remarked in passing, that his school shows the good effects of the continued service of an able teacher. If this year is an average, these figures mean that 44% of the schools change teachers every year, and 80% have a new teacher at least once in two years, a constant coming and going that makes the highest grade of work impossible. Experience has clearly taught that the best teach-

VARIATIONS IN AVERAGE SALARIES-RURAL and VILLAGE TEACHERS according to

YEARS OF
 TEACHING EXPERIENCE YEARS IN
 PRESENT POSITION

| | | |
|-------|--------------|--------|
| \$ 78 | 1 ST. | \$ 82 |
| \$ 86 | 2 ND. | \$ 91 |
| \$ 90 | 3 RD.- 5 TH | \$ 95 |
| \$ 95 | 6 TH.-10 TH. | \$ 95 |
| \$ 96 | 11 TH & OVER | \$ 133 |

ing, particularly in rural schools, can only be obtained when the teacher is permanently domiciled in the community. The moving of teachers isn't altogether, or largely, a matter of money, though it can be somewhat checked by adopting a policy of an annual increase of salary to a competent teacher. Teachers change constantly without the inducement of an increase in salary. They are just naturally migratory, and this is truer of rural school teachers than of any other group. There is in this connection one factor that ought not to be overlooked. A proportion of the annual vacancies occur through the permanent retirement of a number of teachers each year. A large majority of the teachers are ladies. Among these are many who have seriously elected teaching as a profession. There is another large class, however, who merely "teach while they wait."

As has already been intimated, the average salary is high, being more than double the average for rural schools in many sections of the country. The average for all female teachers under consideration is \$86 per month of twenty teaching days; for male teachers it is \$106. The salaries in the open country schools are on a par with those paid in the village schools, indeed are sometimes higher. \$50 is the lowest salary paid, and \$150 the highest (for a man principal). The amount paid varies according to experience and the number of years in the same

position. The training of the teacher apparently has nothing to do with it, the High School graduates receiving, as it happens, on the average considerably more than the average for the whole number of teachers. The variations according to experience and length of service in present positions are indicated below:

| | <i>Average Salary Number Years Teaching Experience</i> | <i>According to— Number years in Present Position.</i> |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| First year | \$78.00 | \$82.00 |
| Second year | 86.00 | 91.00 |
| Third to fifth year..... | 90.00 | 95.00 |
| Sixth to tenth year..... | 95.00 | 95.00 |
| Eleventh year or more..... | 96.00 | 133.00* |

* One teacher only.

The practise of paying teachers according to experience may be further indicated thus:

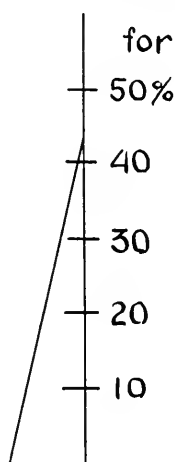
Of 5 receiving less than \$75, 4 are without previous experience.
 Of 23 receiving less than \$75, 13 are without previous experience.
 Of 22 receiving less than \$80, 4 are without previous experience.
 Of 34 receiving less than \$85, 10 are without previous experience.
 Of 27 receiving less than \$90, 1 is without previous experience.
 Of 9 receiving less than \$95, 1 is without previous experience.
 Of 33 receiving less than \$100 or more, none are without previous experience.

It is, of course, an eminently wise policy to make provision for advancement. So we see that of all the experienced teachers, more than 90% are receiving salaries in excess of \$75 a month, while of the inexperienced teachers only 23% receive more than that amount. While of those who are new this year to their present positions (irrespective of the number of years of their teaching experience) one-third are receiving \$75 a month or less, whereas, of those who have spent one or more previous years in their present positions, more than 95% are receiving in excess of that amount.

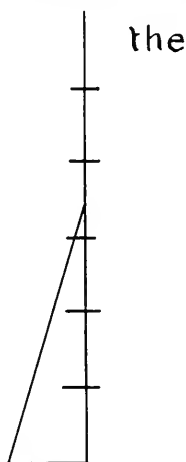
The question of the permanence of the teaching force suggests another very important question which may be mentioned at this point, that of supervision. One of the outstanding weaknesses of the school system as organized in Tulare County is in the lack of supervision accorded the individual teachers, particularly the rural teachers. The County Superintendent has a multitude of duties to perform, only one of which is to actually superintend the schools. The large number of these schools, and the great territory which their combined districts cover, make the task of adequate supervision physically impossible. Last year, 75 rural schools were visited but once by the Superintendent; 28 were visited twice, and 6 three times, leaving a very few which received anything approaching the number of visits which would make supervision a reality. As far as the teaching methods are concerned,

PERIODIC MIGRATIONS of 153 RURAL and VILLAGE TEACHERS

68 55 32
are teaching this year



1st



2nd.



3rd. TO 11th

YEAR
IN THEIR PRESENT, 1914,
SCHOOLS

this is inspection, not supervision. To be sure, most of the teachers are well trained, and most of them are competent. But many are young and inexperienced, while others, capable enough with proper direction, lack both the initiative and the independent judgment to be really good teachers without supervision. That much was patent even

from the casual hearing of recitations that came with the work of the survey. The point requires no argument. Efforts are now being made in the State Legislature to remedy this defect in the elementary school system.

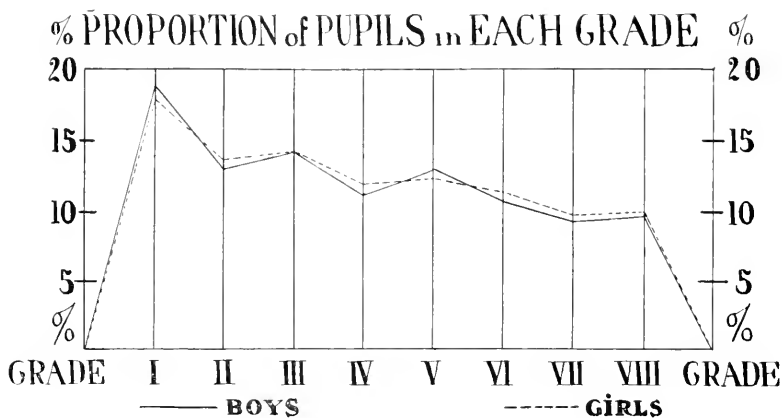
Chapter 4—The Pupils.

The material of this section is for 115 public and 2 parochial schools. The figures on enrollment and attendance, having been secured at various times from October to April, will doubtless show some variation from the figures for the entire year, but not enough to affect their value. The total enrollment for these schools is 3,989, of whom 2,056, or 51.5%, are boys; 1,933 are girls. The average daily attendance is 3,539, 88.7% of the enrollment, a very creditable record when it is considered that many children have a considerable distance to travel over wretched roads, and that several schools were seriously affected by epidemics of scarlet fever during the winter. The enrollment by grades presents some interesting points:

| Grade. | Boys. | | Girls. | |
|--------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
| | Number. | % of Whole | Number. | % of Whole |
| 1 | 385 | 18.8 | 340 | 17.9 |
| 2 | 266 | 12.9 | 255 | 13.1 |
| 3 | 288 | 14.1 | 274 | 14.1 |
| 4 | 232 | 11.3 | 226 | 11.6 |
| 5 | 269 | 13.0 | 239 | 12.3 |
| 6 | 225 | 10.9 | 218 | 11.2 |
| 7 | 190 | 9.2 | 191 | 9.9 |
| 8 | 201 | 9.8 | 190 | 9.9 |

These percentages are set forth graphically in the diagram on page 71. The remarkable thing about these figures is the relative uniformity of the percentage curve for both sexes throughout the eight grades. In most statistics on rural school enrollment we notice a sharp break downward in the curve after the third or fourth grade for the boys, and another sharp break after the fifth or sixth grade for both sexes. Here the only serious decline in enrollment comes after the fifth grade, and even here the degree is not great. A large proportion of the boys, as well as of the girls, are held for the entire eight-grade course. All but four of these schools are in session for nine months.

Schools having an enrollment of 25 or more have the larger proportion of the children, but a considerable number of the schools are maintained with too few pupils for maximum efficiency of work. Small enrollment means small classes lacking entirely the stimulus of numbers, many grades with but one pupil, and a limited opportunity for school activities of many sorts. This is, of course, also the reason why



the better equipped and more efficient town schools are maintained at a smaller per capita expense than the rural schools with fewer advantages. The small school is an expensive school. The number of small schools may be indicated by the following table:

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 10 or less..... | 15 |
| 11-15 | 20 |
| 16-20 | 19 |
| 21-30 | 24 |
| 31-50 | 19 |
| 51 and over..... | 20 |

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Nearly a third of the schools have an average attendance of 15 or less. In the whole number of schools there are 108 instances of grades containing but a single pupil each. Combinations of grades can easily be made in teaching some subjects to avoid small classes, but this is not done nearly as much as it might be.

Chapter 5—Miscellaneous.

The course of study presents little that requires comment here. The schools are carefully graded, and a well-balanced course of study is prescribed. There is little attempt to teach "special" subjects, which, under the circumstances, is just as well, the facilities being inadequate and the work heavy enough for an average teacher. "Nature study" is usually incidental to the work in language and geography. Something is attempted in connection with the school gardens. Three or four schools give regular periods to elementary agriculture. A little work is done with rafia in several schools, but only one school has any definite work in manual training or domestic science. The Windsor School, in the Reedley High School District, has a special teacher in domestic science one hour a week for the sixth, seventh and eighth



WATCHFUL WAITING

grade girls. The boys of the same grades go to Reedley for one hour's instruction each week in manual training. Most schools where there is a musical instrument or a musical teacher, or both, devote some regular time to school singing. A number have systematic note drill. Woodlake School is probably doing the best work in this respect. It is usual to devote one hour a week to drawing, and many of the schools do very good work in this subject.

The regular library fund gives each school an opportunity to amass a very considerable library. The 115 schools under consideration had in all 78,581 volumes in their libraries at the close of last year. The books are often a rather haphazard collection, though the fact that the selections must be made from an accredited list keeps them within reasonable bounds. 17 schools have libraries of over a thousand volumes each, and 47 others have more than 500 volumes. An ar-



GRAMMAR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

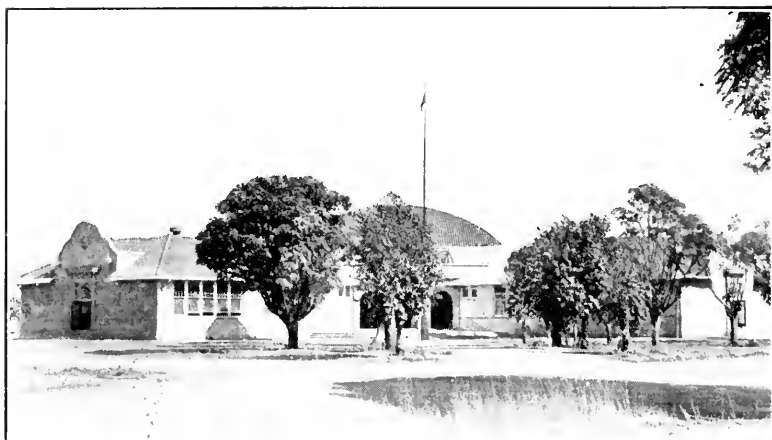
rangement has recently been authorized whereby a school can, if it desires, turn its annual library money over to the County Library and receive in return the full privileges of that institution. A number of schools have already taken advantage of that provision. A considerable number of schools are also regular County Library Stations. In many communities considerable use is made of the school libraries by the people of the district.

Every public school in California is potentially and theoretically a social and civic center. A State law approved in 1913 provides that, "There is hereby, etc." (See School Law, page 78.) From the enactment of the law to the realization of the contemplated result is a long step which has not yet been taken. Most of the schools which have sufficient pupils do indeed aim to give several public entertainments during the year which are generally well attended. The movement is also well started to make broader use of the school buildings. 51 of the schools surveyed reported no use of the buildings for other than school purposes (except possibly for elections). Others, however, are variously used for Sunday School, church services, club meetings, dances, political rallies, and similar gatherings. Doubtless, if more of the teachers lived in the communities where they teach, and held their positions for a longer term of years, and were so minded they could greatly extend this general community use of the school plant, and thereby bring the community and the school much closer together. Incidentally, they would help solve the vexing social problem of the average rural community.

At various points in this discussion we have mentioned the advisability of consolidating some of the district schools. One qualification should be made. Some of the districts, as at present laid out, are almost, or quite, as large as ordinary consolidated districts. Their size is made necessary by the sparse population. If, as they are settled up, transportation of pupils were provided (as has in one or two cases been attempted), and the district kept intact, there would be in effect a centralized school. In actual practise, the habit is to continually carve new districts out of these old ones as soon as a sufficient number of families are located near one spot to legally establish a school. It would be to the ultimate interests of all concerned to greatly curtail this practise. But there again the "boom" spirit of a new country crops out. How can one community grow properly, if its neighbor has the school?

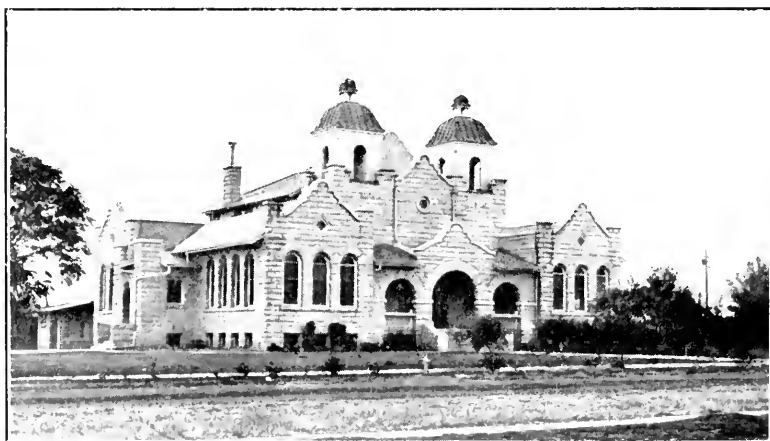
Chapter 6—High Schools.

No detailed study of the High Schools of the County was made, and it is not intended to include here more than the barest outline of the



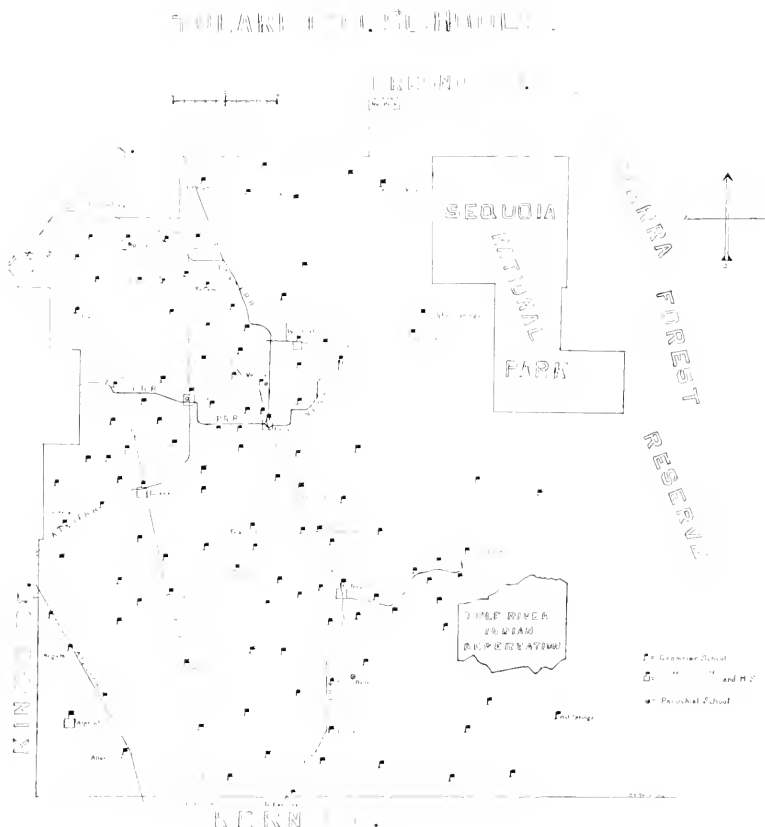
DINUBA HIGH SCHOOL

secondary school situation. There are nine High Schools within the borders of the County—at Alpaugh, Tulare, Dinuba, Orosi, Woodlake, Exeter, Lindsay and Porterville, and three others just over the County line—at Delano, Kingsburg and Reedley. The oldest of these was established in 1891; the youngest in 1914. The total enrollment in 1913-14 of pupils from this county was: 1,368—612 boys and 756 girls. The High Schools are supported partly by the State and partly by the district. The district may either be co-extensive with an elementary school district, as is the case with Alpaugh, Tulare, Visalia and Lindsay, or a union of several such districts. In 1913-14, their combined



PORTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

income from all sources was \$161,257.97, and their total disbursements, \$133,230.16. They employed 31 men and 43 women teachers. Their equipment has an aggregate value of about \$300,000. The weak point in the financial system is in the small portion of the county that has to bear the expense of maintaining the High Schools that all use. Pupils from districts not belonging to a High School Union may attend any High School, and their districts are assessed at the pro rata cost of instruction only, leaving the whole burden of maintenance and equipment to be borne by the High School District. While several of the schools are small and relatively weak, work of high grade is done in all. The courses are well adapted to the needs of the communities. Agriculture and the usual courses in domestic science and manual training are taught in all but two. There are many special features which would merit extended treatment did our space warrant it.



PART V.

RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS.

Chapter 1—Number, Kind and Distribution of Religious Organizations and Their Material Equipment.

The church problem inevitably takes its form from the economic, social and allied problems of the country, a truism which must constantly be borne in mind for the proper understanding of our present subject. What would be weakness in one community may well be a sign of strength and of promise for the future in a community of another sort. The bare, unrelieved facts regarding the religious situation in Tulare County would be disheartening enough were it not that we are here dealing with a new and somewhat complex situation. The original settlers of this country were not in the main religious people, and pioneer soil is proverbially difficult for religious organizations to take root in. To a certain extent pioneer conditions still prevail. There are large tracts still very sparsely settled; there are many communities new within a few years and others but just born. The whole county is still in the throes of its growing pains. Population is rapidly increasing, and is composite of many strains. There is much coming and going of settlers and might-be settlers. The great economic development of the last fifteen years is still in process. The life of the average community has not yet had time to crystallize in institutions. These and other similar conditions, whose effects are clearly seen in the general social and cultural life, and would doubtless be seen in the schools were it not for the highly efficient state system, are unmistakably reflected in the status of the religious institutions, the most voluntary and sensitive of all social institutions. In general, the religious problem is two-fold. There is the problem of evangelization, *i. e.*, of occupying those sections of the county where there is now no definite or adequate religious work, including those sections which are not now, but may in future become sufficiently populous to support church organizations. There is also the problem of the more efficient cultivation of those fields already occupied, together with such readjustments as may be necessary to keep pace with the needs of a growing population. The discussion of just what form these problems take, and what their solutions may be, we will reserve until after the detailed facts of the religious situation have been reviewed.

Twenty-seven denominations claiming the general name Christian and one non-Christian organization maintain religious work in the County. Perhaps a dozen other denominations are represented by a scattered membership, but are without local organization or regular meeting. The total number of organizations, missions, preaching points and unorganized meetings of the various "Christian" denominations is 108. 92 of these are regularly organized (though not all are legally incorporated.) Of the total number, 61 are located in the six larger towns of the county, 19 in the various villages, and 28 in the country. Reference to the church map, page 105, and to the subjoined tables, pages 106 and 107, will indicate their respective locations. There are, in addition, a number of union or denominational Sunday Schools where no regular church services are held, but these will be considered under another head, the names merely being appended here:

Sunday Schools (without church organization or regular church service)—all in country:

1. Worth Public School District.
2. Badger (Eshom Valley District).
3. Kennedy District.
4. Lewis Creek District.
5. Spa District.
6. Stoil District.
7. Angiola District.
8. Taurusa District.
9. Hot Springs District (Summer only).
10. Allensworth District (Negro only).
11. Three Rivers District.
12. Walnut Grove District.

There is also an organization of the Salvation Army at Visalia.

Summary.

| | | |
|--|----|-----------|
| Total number of Christian organizations..... | 92 | |
| Unorganized meetings and preaching points..... | 16 | |
| | — | Total 108 |
| In towns..... | 61 | |
| In villages..... | 19 | |
| In country..... | 28 | |
| | — | Total 108 |
| Sunday Schools without Church Service..... | 12 | |

The term "pastor" in the tables (pp. 106-107), is taken as referring to a regularly designated minister residing in the immediate parish, without reference to his ordination or installation, as in the usage of

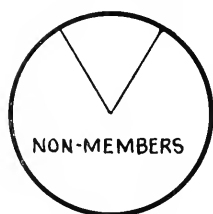
some denominations. In like manner the term "non-resident" supply designates a minister regularly serving a church but not residing in its immediate environs. The terms "local elder" or "local preacher" refer to a man having some other primary occupation than the ministry, who, while residing in the community, serves a church as its minister without salary. There are abandoned churches or organizations not included in the above tables at Monson (near Dinuba), Farmersville, Plano, and Springville. Sunday Schools no longer in existence have in the past been maintained at Fountain Springs, Liberty, Enterprise, Artesia and Lake View School Districts.

It will be noticed that the distribution of the fields of religious work shows the usual overlapping by the different denominations that is almost invariably the feature of Protestant religious effort in this country. At least a third, and possibly more, of the existing organizations are not needed, and have at best a very restricted field of work. Unnecessary duplication of organizations means impaired efficiency at a higher cost, both for equipment and maintenance. This is the condition especially in the towns and villages; the newness of most of the rural communities has prevented as much duplication there, while it is often the very newness of the village communities that fosters denominational rivalry, various denominations seeming to take the position that it is permissible to cripple present religious work in order to establish their particular brand of religion in a locality which has promise of growth. The short-sightedness of this policy, from the point of view of Christianity as a whole, should be obvious since weak churches, with scattered energies, seldom lay firm foundations for future building. The only unrestricted fields for Protestant work in the towns are with the various foreign groups, the missions for Portuguese, Japanese and Koreans and the self-supporting German congregations. Eight of the nineteen village churches have "free" fields. In the twenty-five country districts where religious work is carried on, there is overlapping of Protestant denominations in only three. A few instances may be cited here, and the point will be referred to again later. Orosi has had for many years three denominations at work in a field which would much more adequately support a single church. Alpaugh, which had at first a Union church, now has a Lutheran and a Methodist Episcopal church, each requiring Home Mission aid. There were no conditions to justify the organization of a second church in Strathmore, Woodlake, Farmersville, Waukena, Springville and Ducor, and except in Springville, where the organization, first in the field, has since given the field over to the newcomer, the maintenance of a second church in each community can be justified only on de-

THE PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH

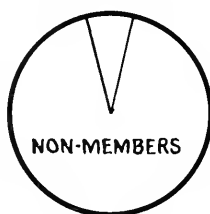
OF THE NON-CATHOLIC POPULATION
RESIDING IN

TOWNS



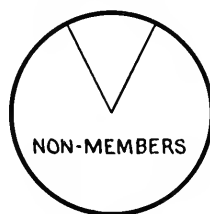
17.4%

VILLAGES



6.9%

COUNTRY

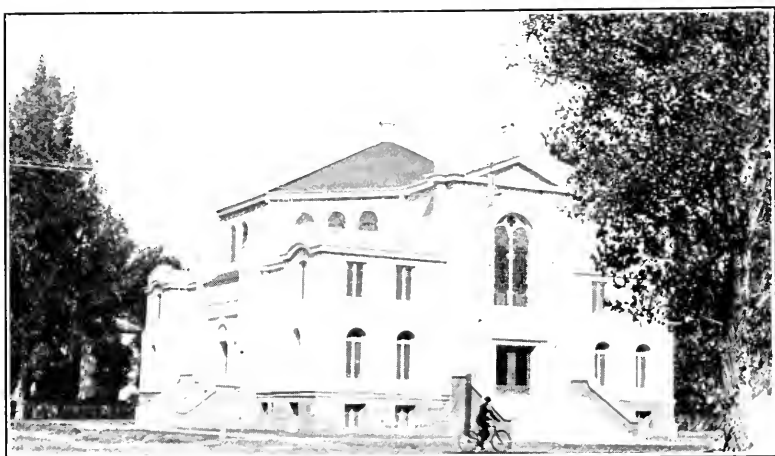


16.2%

ARE CHURCH MEMBERS

nominal grounds. Such problems cannot, of course, be settled out of hand, and we have no disposition to be doctrinaire in the matter. But the future, particularly in smaller settlements, so obviously belongs to the community church, of whatever denomination, that the larger questions of comity involved deserve most careful consideration.

That this problem is still urgent may be inferred from the fact that the number of organizations formed, or preaching points established within the last five years, is 47, and that 32 of these were in localities where Protestant work was already being carried on, and the new organizations were, without exception, unnecessary. This practise has not, however, been confined to the last five years, by any means, and, as previously practised, has left a legacy of many unnecessarily weak churches. There is one interesting sidelight on this situation. The most striking point about recent church development is the rapid increase of the number of churches of such dissenting denominations as the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene, the Apostolic Holiness Union, the Church of God Come-Outers, the Seventh Day Adventists, and the Church of the Millennial Dawn, which last has several scattered groups of adherents without local organization. These all primarily make their appeal to the poor, the dissatisfied and the previously unchurched, and are distinguished the country over by their ability to take root in their soil and survive where other churches languish. They



M. E. CHURCH, TULARE

are seldom strong churches, either financially or numerically, but their persistence in small communities is almost invariably a sign of the failure of the "regular" denominations to cope with the situation.

Throughout the remainder of this discussion, except where otherwise stated, the data presented will be based on a study of 95 of the entire 109 churches and meetings. The reasons for the 14 omissions are as follows: the Buddhist temple was omitted to confine the study to Christian organizations; since complete information could be obtained for only one of the four Catholic churches, these four, and also the Gregorian Armenian congregation at Yettem and the organization of the Latter Day Saints at Tulare are omitted, leaving only Protestant organizations. Information was also not secured concerning the five Christian Science and the two United Brethren groups. The 95 remaining are divided as follows: 51 are in towns, 17 in villages, and 27 in the country. The Salvation Army is considered only in the Sunday School discussion.

The 95 organizations and meetings have at the present time 74 church buildings, 34 parsonages (2 other churches are attached to circuits having parsonages located in other counties), and four separate parish houses or social halls, representing a total valuation of a little under \$500,000. The Methodist Episcopal Church has by far the largest amount of any denomination invested in church equipment, with the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodist Episcopal South and Congregationalists following in the order named. Nearly half of the church buildings—33 to be exact—have been erected within the last five years, representing an investment during that period of between

one hundred and eighty and two hundred thousand dollars. The new buildings are, in general, much better planned for church purposes than the older ones, though many buildings, both old and new, show that they were conceived merely as auditoriums for preaching rather than as centers; also for social and educational activities.

The appended table will give an idea of the average value of the church edifices:

| All Buildings. | Valued at. | Buildings Erected Within Last Five Years. |
|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 17 | \$1,000 or less | 4 |
| 14 | 1,001-2,000 | 9 |
| 19 | 2,001-5,000 | 11 |
| 15 | 5,001-10,000 | 4 |
| 7 | 10,001-20,000 | 4 |
| 2 | 20,001 or over | 1 |
| 74 | Total | 33 |
| \$5,210 | Average value | \$5,400 |

In the same manner the number of rooms available for church purposes may be indicated:

| All Buildings. | Buildings With | Buildings Erected Within Last Five Years. |
|----------------|--------------------|---|
| 27 | 1 room | 14 |
| 9 | 2 rooms | 3 |
| 23 | 3- 5 rooms | 8 |
| 8 | 6-10 rooms | 4 |
| 7 | 11 or more rooms | 4 |
| 74 | Total number rooms | 33 |
| 306 | | 143 |

The two best buildings in the county are probably the Methodist Episcopal Church at Tulare and the Congregational Church at Porterville. For strictly religious activities, the former is the better; for general social activities, the latter. This building, however, has been something of a white elephant. It was erected some eight years ago as a social center, and splendidly equipped with club rooms, gymnasium, swimming tank, locker rooms, etc. Its maintenance has been a great financial drain, and the congregation has never been able to realize its ambitions for an institutional church. Other buildings worthy of mention, for plan and equipment, are the Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal and Episcopal buildings in Visalia; the Methodist Episcopal South building in Dinuba; the Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal South buildings in Exeter; the Methodist Episcopal building in Porterville; the Baptist and Methodist Episcopal buildings in Lindsay; and among the country and villages churches, the two buildings at



M. E. CHURCH, LINDSAY

Alpaugh, the Brethren Church near Strathmore, and the Mennonite Church west of Dinuba.

The parsonages range in value from \$600.00 to \$5,000.00, the average being about \$2,100. In general, they compare favorably with the average of the less pretentious homes in their communities. The fact that less than half of the ministers at work in the county are provided with parsonages is somewhat of a handicap, since in most sections desirable renting properties are scarce and rents are high.

In general, rather insufficient care is taken of the church buildings and grounds, and the appearance of many an otherwise passable building is spoiled by neglect and by an untidy church lot. There are, of course, some very happy exceptions to this rule.

The seating capacity of the various church auditoriums varies from 60 to 1,000, the majority seating from 150 to 200. The total seating capacity of the town churches is 11,650; of the village churches, 2,780, and of the country churches, 2,330, an aggregate of 16,760, which is considerably in excess of the number that they are called upon to seat at any given time.

Chapter 2—Membership and Growth.

The membership of the local churches is not an altogether satisfactory index to the strength of the religious forces of the county. Here, far more than in older settled sections, there are many people who, prior to their settlement here, were church members, but who have never united with local churches. Some of them help support

the local churches; many do not. Just how many people there are in the county who have church letters stored in the bottoms of their trunks, or whose names are still on the roster of some church "back east," it is impossible to say, but there are doubtless a good many. On the other hand, the membership rolls of many local churches contain names of former residents who have never asked for their letters. The practise of churches in regard to such names varies. Some churches carry them indefinitely, while others revise their rolls annually. In figuring the membership, care was taken to get only the living, resident and active, membership. Those who had moved away, or who, without moving, had completely lost interest, were not counted. This will cause some variation between the figures here presented and those appearing in the various denominational year-books. It is believed, however, that the figures given here are substantially correct. In case where there was no actual organization, but a definite and recognizable group of people banded together for regular worship, their number was included. It should be remembered that not all of the 95 centers of Protestant work which we are here considering have either an organization or a definite clientele, while others have an organization in common with some larger center of work. 86 organizations, or definite groups, are here recognized and counted.

The total membership of these 86 organizations is 7,425. Of these the town churches have 5,889, an average of 120 to a church; the village churches have 768, an average of 45; the country churches have also 768, an average of 38. Many country residents are represented in the membership of town and village churches. The total membership, according to residence, would give town members 3,359; village members, 240; country members, 3,826. The total non-Catholic population of the county, as nearly as it can be estimated, is approximately 45,000-46,000. Just about 16% of the total non-Catholic population, therefore, is represented in the church membership, which is certainly a low proportion. The towns and the country show about the same proportion; the villages a much lower proportion. About 17.4% of the non-Catholics in the towns are Protestant Church members; about 6.9% in the villages, and 16.2% in the country. The village is apparently the difficult field—a condition possibly to be attributed to the denominational over-lapping which has so undermined the strength of the village churches.

There are many small churches, ineffectual because of very poverty of numbers, a condition excusable except where the church forces have been unnecessarily divided. 71% of all the churches, and all but one of the village and country churches, have less than a hundred

members each. Exactly half of the churches have less than fifty members each. The detailed figures are suggestive:

| Churches With an Active Membership of— | Town. | Village. | Country. | Total. |
|--|-------|----------|----------|--------|
| 10 or less..... | 2 | 1 | .. | 3 |
| 11-20..... | 3 | 3 | 7 | 13 |
| 21-50..... | 12 | 6 | 9 | 27 |
| 51-75..... | 5 | 4 | 2 | 11 |
| 76-100..... | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| 101-150..... | 9 | 1 | .. | 10 |
| 151-200..... | 4 | .. | .. | 4 |
| 201 or more..... | 11 | .. | .. | 11 |
| | 49 | 17 | 20 | 86 |

The following table shows the number of members attached to the churches in the various towns; also the number of local church members actually resident in each:

| Name of Town. | Total Active Membership All Protestant Churches. | Number of Active Members Resident. |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Visalia | 1,093 | 739 |
| Dinuba | 1,408 | 795 |
| Tulare | 791 | 464 |
| Exeter | 561 | 327 |
| Porterville | 860 | 497 |
| Lindsay | 1,176 | 507 |

Dinuba is the best church town, both in the proportion of the town people who belong to the churches and in the number of country people attached to the town churches.

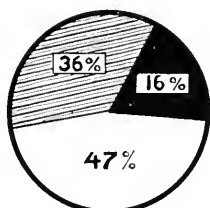
Five denominations have the largest part of the total Protestant membership—the Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal South and Disciples of Christ, their numerical strength being in the order named. The Baptists are making by far the most rapid growth for the county as a whole. The United States Religious Census of 1906 may be cited here to show the total growth for the last nine years, and the relative degrees of growth of the various denominations.

All Protestant Bodies except Church of Christ, Scientist.

| | Membership 1906. | 1915. | Net Gain, Nine Years. | % of Gain. |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| All others | 125 | 7,425 | 4,189 | 129 |
| Total | 532 | 1,793 | 987 | 122 |
| M. E. | 472 | 797 | 205 | 36 |
| M. E. S. | 496 | 1,404 | 991 | 240 |
| Baptist | 3,236 | 200 | 75 | 60 |
| Protestant Episcopal ... | 806 | 711 | 179 | 33 |
| Disciples of Christ | 592 | 986 | 514 | 108 |
| Presbyterians | 413 | 1,534 | 1,038 | 209 |

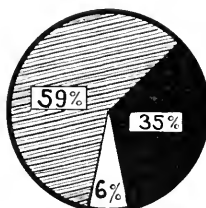
VARIATIONS IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP for Churches in

TOWNS



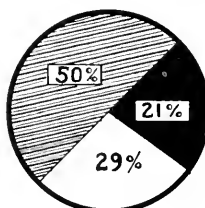

 50 MEMBERS
OR LESS

VILLAGES




 51 - 100
MEMBERS

COUNTRY




 101 MEMBERS
OR MORE

Not more than fifteen church organizations show a net loss for this period. But many show a relative loss in proportion to the population, which has almost doubled since 1906. The total membership for the county, however, has gained on the population somewhat. The figures for 1906 not being itemized, except by denominations, it is not possible to analyze the changes according to localities.

The total church membership is drawn from 3,558 different families, which means that something like 35-40% of all the non-Catholic families in the county are represented. It is noteworthy, however, that these families average only a little over two members from each family. The Methodist Episcopal Church South is the only denomination that shows an appreciably higher average than that. Their six churches show an average of a little less than three members for each family represented. The generally low average is due in part to the relatively small number of men in the church membership. The Brethren Church, near Strathmore, has an unusual record in this respect. In every family represented in the membership, save one, both husband and wife are members, and 25% of the total membership are under 21 years of age.

For the county as a whole the feminine contingent forms practically 60% of the entire membership. The proportion varies somewhat in the different denominations and localities, but for no very apparent reason. The proportion of young people (under 21 years of age) in the membership varies from 13% to 28%, being a little less than 24%

for the county. It is considerably higher in the country and village churches than in the town churches. There are ten churches with practically no young people at all. Speaking generally, the churches which have large numbers of young people are the churches with well-organized, efficient Sunday Schools. Indeed, the Sunday School, properly conducted, is the only really efficient method of holding young people in the church. Three classes of churches have very few young people—churches with haphazard, poorly-organized Sunday Schools; ritualistic churches, like the Protestant Episcopal, and churches with a predominatingly emotional appeal, like the Church of God, Holiness and Nazarene—though perhaps it all comes to the one reason. The following table gives the figures in detail for denominations and localities:

| | Total No. Male. | Total No. Female. | Under 21. | Per Cent. Male. | Per Cent. Under 21. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|
| All churches | 2,999 | 4,426 | 1,771 | 40.4 | 23.8 |
| M. E. | 726 | 1,067 | 454 | 40.5 | 25.3 |
| M. E. S. | 306 | 491 | 191 | 38.3 | 24.0 |
| Baptist | 579 | 825 | 344 | 41.3 | 24.5 |
| Protestant Episcopal | 75 | 125 | 26 | 37.5 | 13.0 |
| Disciples of Christ.. | 274 | 437 | 155 | 38.5 | 21.8 |
| Presbyterian | 394 | 592 | 217 | 40.0 | 22.0 |
| Other denominations | 634 | 900 | 384 | 41.3 | 25.0 |
| Towns | 2,377 | 3,512 | 1,345 | 40.2 | 22.8 |
| Villages | 301 | 467 | 213 | 39.2 | 27.7 |
| Country | 321 | 447 | 213 | 41.8 | 27.7 |

The total number of accessions to the membership last year was 1,825. The year's losses, chiefly by letter, were 468, leaving a net gain of 1,357, or an average of nearly 16 per organization. The Baptist denomination made the largest net gain of the year with 368; the Methodist Episcopal Church was second with 209. The accessions, losses and net gain by localities are shown below:

| | Total Number Accessions. | Total Losses. | Net Gain for Year. |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Visalia | 201 | 86 | 115 |
| Dinuba | 335 | 56 | 279 |
| Tulare | 172 | 75 | 97 |
| Exeter | 208 | 33 | 175 |
| Porterville | 113 | 74 | 39 |
| Lindsay | 403 | 82 | 321 |
| Villages | 235 | 35 | 200 |
| Country | 158 | 27 | 131 |

Of the total number of accessions, a rather large proportion, 778, or 42.6%, were by letter, 1,047 being received on profession of faith. Men formed a larger proportion of the year's gain than of the total membership. 821, or 45%, of the total number received, were men; 1,004 were women. The different localities show some rather interest-

ing variations in these proportions. The number of accessions by letter was considerably in excess of the number on profession in Visalia, Porterville, and the country churches. The Lindsay churches received by far the largest proportion on profession—77.8%. In Lindsay, also, the men received during the year outnumbered the women.

“To him that hath shall be given.” It is the already large churches that make the substantial gains. Numbers attract numbers. Very few of the small congregations made any appreciable gains during the year. More than a third of the total number of churches lost ground or merely marked time last year. 26 churches received the bulk of the accessions. The detailed figures follow :



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LINDSAY

| Churches. | Town. | Village. | Country. |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| With a net loss | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| With a net gain of 5 or less..... | 5 | 5 | 8 |
| With a net gain 6-10 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| With a net gain 11-20 | 8 | .. | 4 |
| With a net gain 21-50 | 14 | 5 | 2 |
| With a net gain 51 and over..... | 5 | .. | .. |
| With neither gain nor loss..... | 6 | .. | 2 |

Chapter 3—The Church Budget.

To determine exactly how much money it takes to run a church for a year is often a very difficult task, for the simple reason that nobody knows. This is particularly true of churches which are loosely and imperfectly organized, but is not confined to them. Some churches have very excellent business methods; some have very poor business methods, while still others have no business methods at all. There is undoubtedly a great deal of waste effort in the financing of religious movements owing to the haphazard and unsystematic methods so often employed.

The financial needs of a church may roughly be classified under three heads—(a) the expense of up-keep and maintenance, including the pastor’s salary, insurance, interest on indebtedness, etc., a relatively

COMPOSITION OF THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

ENLISTING THE MEN

MEN 40%

WOMEN 60%

RECRUITING FOR THE FUTURE

MINOR 24%

ADULT 76%

fixed amount; (*b*) the general benevolences of the church, including contributions to the various denominational boards and support of various denominational officers; in part a fixed amount, but in part depending on circumstances; (*c*) special expenses incurred on account of building, repairs, purchase of necessary furniture, payment of any special assessments for paying or similar purposes, etc., an amount varying very greatly from year to year. Certain churches, notably those of the Seventh Day Adventist denomination, raise their entire budget by a tithing system. These churches, in proportion to their general strength as compared with other churches, raise unusually large amounts, have generally a low maintenance expense, and are correspondingly larger givers for missionary and general denominational purposes. This system is apparently not adapted to the average Protestant congregation. A very few churches attempt carefully to estimate their total liabilities for each year, including fixed and incidental charges and benevolences, and cover this entire budget minus any ascertainable income from collections or endowments, by annual pledges, payable either weekly, by a "duplex" envelope system, or upon receipt of a monthly or quarterly statement. (The "duplex" envelope system is a system of double envelopes, one-half for general and the other for benevolent contributions—the advantage over the common "single" envelope being that it systematizes the giving to benevolences and distributes it over the entire year, substituting this

for dependence upon special collections. The system is greatly to be recommended.) A much larger number of churches secure pledges covering simply the pastor's salary and the stated denominational assessments, frequently using a weekly envelope system, and rely upon collections, receipts from socials and similar sources for the balance of the budget. Any deficit which may occur, and all special or unusual expenses, are covered either by a special solicitation or a special offering. The disadvantage of this method is that there usually is a deficit, and the giving for missionary purposes is uncertain, unsystematic, and unsatisfactory. (Of course, many churches would be glad to secure pledges for their entire expense, if they could. That they cannot is usually due either to the absence of a carefully prepared, business-like budget, or to an inefficient canvass, or both. Where a duplex envelope system, or similar device, has been employed without results, the reason is usually to be found in the methods employed in establishing its use.) The remaining number of churches get what pledges and collections they can and hustle for the rest.

The total amount raised on the field last year by all Protestant churches was \$115,055. In addition, 21 churches received Home Mission aid to the extent of \$5,284. The appended table indicates the total amounts raised locally by the various denominations, and in the various localities also the amounts raised per capita of the membership. This last is included, with recognition of the fact that by no means all of the money raised is contributed by the members, simply as an indication of the money-raising power of the various churches:

| | <i>Total Amt. Raised</i> | <i>Amt. Raised per Member</i> | <i>Amt. Raised Membership</i> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| M. E. | \$27,788 | \$15.49 | \$32.65 |
| M. E. S. | 8,791 | 11.03 | 29.90 |
| Baptist | 22,402 | 14.53 | 33.48 |
| Protestant Episcopal | 3,020 | 15.10 | 21.12 |
| Disciples of Christ..... | 9,482 | 13.33 | 24.90 |
| Presbyterian | 19,090 | 19.55 | 35.33 |
| Other denominations | 24,482 | 15.96 | 36.27 |
| Visalia | 17,736 | 16.23 | |
| Dinuba | 15,159 | 10.77 | |
| Tulare | 13,394 | 16.93 | |
| Exeter | 9,743 | 17.36 | |
| Porterville | 13,764 | 16.00 | |
| Lindsay | 18,412 | 13.53 | |
| Villages | 14,722 | 19.17 | |
| Country | 12,125 | 15.79 | |
| Grand total | \$115,055 | \$15.49 | \$32.05 |

That there is economy in numbers is shown by the fact that the best church towns, generally speaking, *i. e.*, Dinuba and Lindsay, raise the

smallest per capita amounts, while the weakest group of churches, those in the villages, raise the largest per capita amount.

The total amount raised, \$115,055, was expended as follows: For salaries of ministers, \$50,022, or 43.4%, of the total (to get the whole amount received by ministers, the amount received from Home Mission Boards must be added to this; a detailed discussion of salaries will be included in the chapter on ministers); for all maintenance and contingent expenses, \$47,203, or 41.0% (this includes all amounts raised for building purposes, interest on indebtedness, etc.); for all benevolences, including supervision and the support of denominational agencies, \$17,830, or 15.6%. The unusually large amount required for contingent expenses is, of course, due to the fact that we have here many new churches, with rather heavy indebtedness from recent building operations. This fact also doubtless explains the small proportion of the budget devoted to benevolences. The following tables give (1) an analysis of the expenditures by denominations; (2) the amount expended for various purposes per capita of the membership and the proportion of the total budget devoted to benevolences, by denominations; and (3) the total and the per capita amounts raised for benevolences in the different localities, with the proportion of those amounts in the total budget.

| | Salaries | Supervision | Home Missions | Foreign Missions | Other Benevolences | Contingent |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| M. E. | \$12,153 | \$1,162 | \$1,184 | \$1,121 | \$1,663 | \$10,505 |
| M. E. S. | 4,700 | 525 | 249 | 262 | 439 | 2,616 |
| Baptist | 8,780 | 675 | 957 | 692 | 506 | 10,792 |
| Prot. Epis. | 1,650 | 172 | 83 | 56 | 43 | 1,016 |
| Presbyterian | 8,378 | 197 | 464 | 531 | 526 | 8,994 |
| Others | 14,361 | 367 | 3,376 | 1,807 | 773 | 13,280 |
| Total | \$50,022 | \$3,098 | \$6,313 | \$4,469 | \$3,950 | \$47,203 |

| | Amount raised for salaries per capita of membership | Amount raised for benevolences (incl. supervision) per capita | Proportion of total budget used for benevolence (incl. supervision) |
|---------------------|---|--|--|
| M. E. | \$6.77 | \$2.86 | 18.4% |
| M. E. S. | 5.90 | 1.85 | 16.7% |
| Baptist | 6.25 | 2.01 | 12.7% |
| Prot. Epis. | 8.25 | 1.77 | 11.7% |
| Disc. of Ch. | 6.47 | 0.88 | 6.6% |
| Presbyterian | 8.70 | 1.74 | 9.0% |
| Others | 6.36 | 3.68 | 23.1% |

| | Amount raised for benevolences (including supervision) | | Proportion of total budget |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Total | Per capita of membership | |
| Visalia | \$2,328 | \$2.22 | 13.7% |
| Dinuba | 3,771 | 2.72 | 25.2% |
| Tulare | 2,225 | 2.81 | 16.6% |
| Exeter | 800 | 1.42 | 8.1% |
| Porterville | 2,177 | 2.53 | 15.8% |
| Lindsay | 2,318 | 1.88 | 13.9% |
| Villages | 1,773 | 3.02 | 12.1% |
| Country | 2,318 | 2.32 | 19.1% |

The above tables show some very interesting contrasts between denominations and also between localities. We will leave it for others, however, to discover their significance, except in these few particulars. The country churches as a whole give largely to missions because of the number of churches in the country with an unsalaried ministry which devote a large part of their budget to missionary purposes. For the rest, it is obvious that the missionary enthusiasm, and the missionary giving of any congregation, are dependent upon a good many factors, the extent of its financial obligations and resources, its methods of finance, its methods of missionary education, the personal interest of the pastor, and so on. As far as the amounts expended for salaries are concerned, it is well-known that certain denominations have much higher standards for their ministry than others, both as regards academic training and compensation, and in consequence pay higher average salaries. One other point should be mentioned. The amount received by various churches from Home Mission Boards is but slightly less than the total amount contributed by the county for Home Missions, and if one Seventh Day Adventist Church is eliminated, considerably exceeds it.

Chapter 4—Organizations in the Churches.

The most important of the various subsidiary religious organizations is the Sunday School. There are in all 117 Sunday Schools in the county at the present time. 93 of these are maintained in connection with the Protestant Church organizations, preaching points and missions which we have been considering. 12 are maintained at various country points where there is no other regular religious service. One is maintained by the Salvation Army. The other 11 are attached to those organizations which are not under consideration, and are therefore omitted from our present discussion. The data here given are for 106 schools.

These 106 schools have a total enrollment of 9,365, an average of 88 to the school. The total average attendance is 6,141, 65.5%, of the enrollment, an average of 58 per school. The low percentage in regular attendance is due in part to the careless way in which the enrollment is often computed. Sunday School rolls are revised even less frequently and carefully than church rolls. The total average attendance is a clearer index of the extent of the Sunday School's influence than the enrollment. 48 schools are in towns, 16 in villages, and 42 in the country. The town schools have the largest average enrollment and attendance, and the country schools the smallest. There are, however, many small schools in the towns and villages as well as in the

country. Nearly half the schools have an enrollment of less than 50 each, while less than one-third exceed 100, as indicated below:

| Schools with an enrollment of— | Town. | Village. | Country. | Total. |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|--------|
| 10 or less..... | 1 | .. | 3 | 4 |
| 11 to 20..... | 4 | 1 | 10 | 15 |
| 21 to 50..... | 9 | 2 | 17 | 28 |
| 51 to 75..... | 5 | 3 | 5 | 13 |
| 76 to 100..... | 5 | 6 | 3 | 14 |
| 101 to 150..... | 8 | 2 | 4 | 14 |
| 151 to 200..... | 7 | 2 | .. | 9 |
| 201 or more..... | 9 | .. | .. | 9 |

Among the denominations, the Methodist Episcopal Church leads in the number enrolled in Sunday School, with the Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodist Episcopal Church South following in that order.

| | Total Enrollment. | Total Average Attendance. |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| M. E. | 2,614 | 1,715 |
| M. E. S. | 856 | 575 |
| Baptist | 1,668 | 1,018 |
| Protestant Episcopal | 77 | 61 |
| Disciples of Christ | 596 | 352 |
| Presbyterian | 1,270 | 864 |
| Others (including Union Schools) .. | 2,284 | 1,556 |
| Total | 9,365 | 6,141 |

The figures on total enrollment show Lindsay leading, with Dinuba and Porterville, second and third, respectively. In average attendance, Lindsay leads, with Dinuba, Visalia and Tulare following in that order. Visalia shows the smallest average enrollment and attendance per school of any town—and Lindsay, by a good margin, the largest. The towns which make the best showing as to Sunday Schools are also the towns, as it happens, with the strongest churches, the largest net gains in church membership for the year, and the largest proportion of young people in the membership—which things are usually found together.

| | No. Schools | Total Enroll. | Av. per School | Total Att. | Av. per school |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Visalia | 12 | 1,001 | 83 | 679 | 56 |
| Dinuba | 9 | 1,196 | 133 | 762 | 85 |
| Tulare | 8 | 1,096 | 137 | 711 | 89 |
| Exeter | 5 | 561 | 112 | 374 | 75 |
| Porterville | 7 | 1,112 | 159 | 585 | 83 |
| Lindsay | 7 | 1,248 | 178 | 784 | 112 |
| Villages | 16 | 1,356 | 85 | 882 | 55 |
| Country | 42 | 1,795 | 43 | 1,364 | 32 |

The largest Sunday Schools in point of average attendance in the towns are the Lindsay Baptist, with 270; Tulare Methodist Episcopal, with 252; Porterville Methodist Episcopal, with 240, and the Porter-

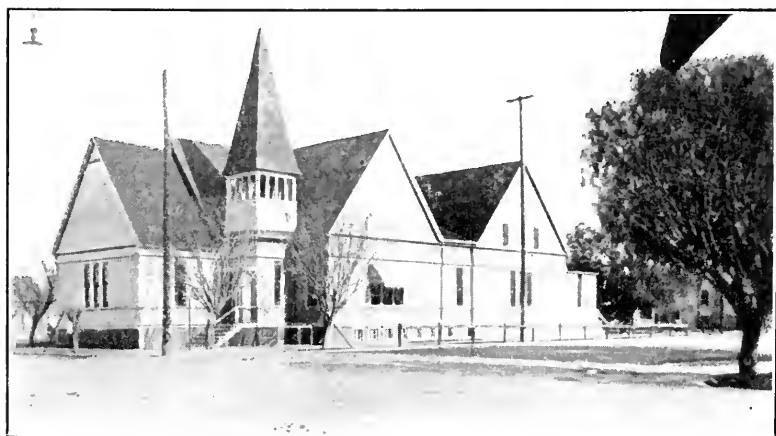
ville Baptist, with 225; in the villages, the Sultana Methodist Episcopal, with 125, and the Orosi Methodist Episcopal South, with 120; in the country, the Brethren, near Strathmore, with 130, and the Menonite, near Dinuba, with 125.

Sunday Schools exist primarily for the training of children, but not wholly so. Nearly all the schools have a very good proportion of adults enrolled. This is particularly true of many country and small village schools, in some of which the adults outnumber the children. Certainly the Sunday School may be made, and often is made, of very real value for the training of all ages in a life of Christian usefulness. The total enrollment in all schools of pupils over 20 years of age is 2,933, or 31.3% of the whole number. Pupils from 15 to 20 years of age are in general the hardest to hold in the school.

| | <i>Enroll. of Pupils over 20 Years of Age</i> | <i>Total Enroll. Proportion of</i> |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Visalia | 369 | 36.8% |
| Dinuba | 276 | 23.1% |
| Tulare | 366 | 33.4% |
| Exeter | 172 | 30.6% |
| Porterville | 237 | 21.3% |
| Lindsay | 419 | 33.5% |
| Villages | 482 | 35.5% |
| Country | 612 | 34.1% |
| Total | 2,933 | 31.3% |

The schools are divided into a total of 685 classes, regularly taught by 220 men and 465 women teachers, and having an average regular attendance per class of about nine. Not more than a dozen schools have any regular system of enlisting and training their teachers, and few of these have anything more than a general conference on the subject matter of each lesson, a thing valuable enough in itself, but not sufficient. Indeed it is the great weakness of the Sunday Schools that they have not yet come to be regarded as primarily educational institutions. This may be seen in the adaptability (or lack of it) of the average church building for school purposes, both as to floor plan and equipment; in the methods of grading and organization of classes and departments; in the selection of the curriculum, and in the conduct of the religious exercises held in connection with the sessions. These points may be taken up in turn.

Of the church buildings used for Sunday School purposes, very few are really well adapted to that use. Of 79 schools meeting in church buildings, only 14 are able to provide every, or practically every, class with a separate room; even counting those schools which make use of rooms in nearby residences; 24 have a room for approxi-



BAPTIST CHURCH, LINDSAY

mately every two classes; 12, one for every three classes; 11, one for every four classes; 7, one for every five classes, and 11 have six or more classes in a single room. The present tendency in building is, however, to provide better accommodations. Approximately half of the churches provide black-boards, and somewhat less than that number charts. Perhaps ten provide other equipment in the shape of maps, reference libraries, etc.

To grade and organize a small school at all thoroughly is difficult, if not impossible. In this the day schools have a great advantage over the Sunday Schools, in that the latter are divided into so many small groups on denominational lines. Size is not, however, the only consideration, since many schools whose numbers are sufficient to admit of careful grading are very deficient in this respect. Careful grading is the first step toward efficient work. The organization of classes and departments serves in part the same purpose. It also gives the school a better basis for its general extra-academic activities, and is one of the best means for sustaining interest and maintaining attendance. A completely organized school is almost always a school that does excellent work, holds its pupils, develops a fine spirit, and generally accomplishes good results. Only 7 schools in the county (4 town, 1 village, 2 country) are organized throughout. 23 others have each one organized class or more. The Methodist Episcopal Sunday Schools at Lindsay and Tulare, and the Baptist school at Lindsay, are the best organized and equipped schools in the county. The latter school has one widely-known organized class of young people, with over 100 enrolled.

In more than two-thirds of the schools uniform lessons are used throughout. Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the value of the various lesson systems now published, there can be but little doubt that graded lessons are correct in principle. No system of graded lesson helps applying to a single passage of Scripture can well make that passage uniformly adapted to the use of all ages. Graded lessons simply recognize the fact that different ages differ in their capacities and should have subject matter adapted to their respective stages of development and prevailing interests. Only 10 schools use a complete graded system of lessons. 22 others use graded lessons for certain classes or departments, usually for the primary and the young people's classes.

To make whatever religious exercises are held in connection with the Sunday School sessions serve any useful educational purpose, is a problem that relatively few of the schools succeed in solving. A song, a prayer, and the reading of the lesson still serves for "the opening exercises" in most schools. This last is rather a useless exercise in schools provided with printed helps containing the text of the lessons, unless it is assumed that the pupils will not look at their lessons before coming to the session.

Twenty-five schools—14 in town, 3 in villages, and 8 in the country—annually observe Decision Day. The value of such observance depends on the method. Usually the results are good, as is seen from the number of young people who enter the church membership from these Sunday Schools. 50 schools regularly give from their collections, or from the "birthday offering," to some missionary cause; in one school each class annually pledges a certain amount to the general budget of the church; several schools assist weaker country schools in the purchase of supplies; one school gives the entire offering the second Sunday of each month to Home Missions; the third to Foreign Missions, and the first and fourth to the current expenses of the church.

As regards social times in the Sunday School, 61 schools have annual picnics, frequently union affairs and important events in the church calendar. About 45 make a feature of regular or frequent social gatherings by classes or as a school. The results upon the general spirit of the schools, and as an aid to sustaining interest, prove the value of a strongly accented social policy.

The last point to be made regarding Sunday Schools concerns the adequacy of those now existing to serve the population of the entire County. There are at present 43 public school districts, with a total grammar school enrollment of 927, which have no Sunday Schools within a reasonable distance—say five miles of the center of the dis-

trict. Few, if any, of these are localities which could support a church; practically all of them could support a Sunday School. Here is an opportunity for some of the stronger schools to do a little missionary work by training leaders to organize and direct Sunday Schools in these various districts, most of which could be reached easily from some one of the larger centers in the county. For the County, as a whole, certain figures are suggestive. The non-Catholic population of the County, 6-20 years of age, is approximately 13,200. The enrollment of the Sunday Schools, 20 years of age and under, is 6,432, or 49% of the population of school age. As a matter of fact the proportion enrolled is somewhat less than 49%, since that 6,432 includes a good number of children under 6 years of age. Obviously the Sunday Schools still have a task before them.

Eighteen church organizations have no subsidiary organizations of any sort except Sunday Schools. The others have each one or more societies of some sort. Men's organizations are few, there only being six in the county, with a total enrollment of 175, and several of these are admittedly invalids. The Brotherhood movement has hardly gotten a start as yet. Women's organizations are, of course, more numerous, and are chiefly of three sorts—Home Missionary Societies, Foreign Missionary Societies and Aid Societies. The town churches have 61 such organizations, with a membership of 1,787; the village churches have 22, with a membership of 400; the country churches have 14, with a membership of 290—97 societies in all. 55 of these are Aid Societies; 36 are Missionary Societies, and 6 serve both purposes. The town churches have 31 Young People's Societies, with a membership of 1,148, and 17 children's organizations, with a membership of 477. The village churches have 8 Young People's and 4 children's societies, with a membership of 261 and 42 respectively. The country churches have 9 Young People's and 1 children's societies, with 356 and 22 members. The number of churches which lack organizations of these various sorts is indicated below:

| | | <i>Town</i> | <i>Village</i> | <i>Country</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 83 Churches | Men (all but six)..... | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| | Women | 14 | 2 | 7 | 22 |
| | Young People | 20 | 6 | 7 | 33 |
| | Children | 34 | 14 | 14 | 62 |
| | Anybody | 11 | 2 | 5 | 18 |

The most interesting society attached to any country church is the big neighborhood sewing circle of the Brethren Church, near Strathmore. This is really undenominational, and women come for miles around to attend its sessions, held monthly, and partake of the bounti-



TAKING A CHICKEN PIE TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SUPPER

ful dinner provided. This society supports several orphans in China. The missionary society of the Buena Vista church also deserves mention for its support of a Bible woman in China.

In general, it will be seen that the churches are rather weak as regards organizations. The great debt which the average church owes its women's society should be an indication of what the church might expect from the organization of the men and the young people. This is said fully recognizing that the difficulties in the way of such organizations are often very great.

Chapter 5—The Church Program.

The church's first and foremost business is, of course, to proclaim the gospel and instruct men in the ways of righteousness. It is only right that the direct means to this end should be the most important part of the church's program. One means, the Sunday School, we have already considered. The next means of importance to be considered is the regular Sabbath preaching service. Of the 95 Protestant churches, missions and preaching points which we have been discussing, 54 have two regular services each Sabbath; 36 have one regular service, while 5 have a service every two weeks or less frequently. Where there are two services, as a usual thing the morning service is the more largely attended. On an average Sunday, except in summer, 146 different preaching services are held in the Protestant churches of the county. The total average attendance at these services was given as 11,496. Allowing for a considerable duplication where two services are held, it seems probable as nearly as it can be figured, that some-

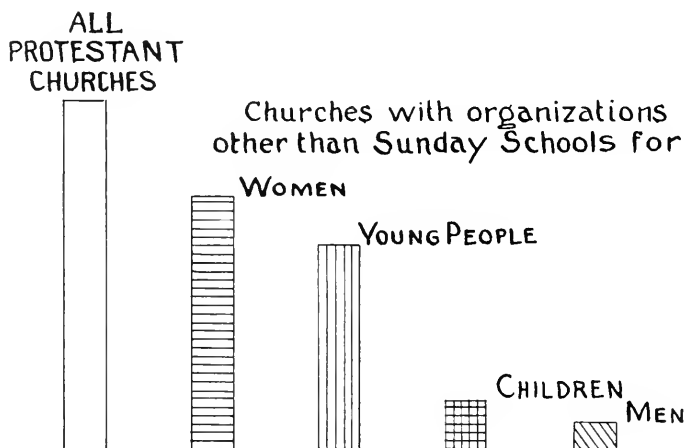
thing like 8,000 different persons attend Protestant churches every Sunday—a little more than one-sixth of the total population. The following table indicates the number that regularly attend the services of the various denominations and the churches in the various localities:

| Aggregate average attendance per Sunday. | |
|--|----------------|
| By Denominations. | By Localities. |
| M. E. | 3,277 |
| M. E. S. | 921 |
| Baptist | 2,368 |
| Protestant Episcopal | 156 |
| Disciples of Christ | 835 |
| Presbyterian | 1,392 |
| All others | 2,527 |
| Visalia | 957 |
| Dinuba | 1,569 |
| Tulare | 1,299 |
| Exeter | 840 |
| Porterville | 1,472 |
| Lindsay | 2,157 |
| Villages | 1,674 |
| Country | 1,538 |

It is the practice of many churches to hold annually “protracted” or “revival” meetings. Sometimes, though not usually, these are union services. Many place great confidence in such meetings to head up the work of the year. There were, last year, 34 different series of revival meetings in the county—20 held in the towns, 8 in the villages, and 6 in the country. These, all told, endured a total of 957 nights. The average duration of these meetings is from two to three weeks, though one series actually held through 195 consecutive nights, and another through 156. Five series of union meetings were held. In seventeen instances, the meetings were conducted by professional evangelists. The total number of professed conversions for the year was about 1,400, most of them from three series of meetings, though the number of accessions to the churches which could be attributed to revival influences was much less than that. A great deal depended upon the evangelist and upon what constituted his definition of a convert. One pastor reported that after meetings in his church a team of evangelists had claimed hundreds of converts, whereas some time later he had not yet succeeded in finding one.

That the revival service has a legitimate place in the church program, particularly in communities where a relatively small proportion of the total population belongs to the churches, requires little comment. The more thoughtful observers are, however, putting less and less reliance on the efforts of the average professional evangelist. As a cold matter of fact, the churches which stress the educational and community activities, and in which the pastor is his own evangelist, as a general rule, are making a steadier and more normal growth, and are in a healthier condition than those which live on the expectation of an annual prodding up. Men who closely followed the spectacular revival efforts of the year expressed grave doubts as to their permanent value to the communities concerned.

ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CHURCHES



There is not in the county any considerable body of foreign-speaking people without some sort of religious service. Meetings are regularly held in various localities using the Korean, Japanese, Portuguese, Armenian, Turkish and German languages. There are, to be sure, many foreigners using other languages, or not convenient to these various meetings, but they are either in small numbers or so scattered that no regular service for them is possible. Instances of this are the Russians, Hindoos and Italians. There is a large contingent of Swedish people in the northwestern part of the county, but they attend the services in Kingsburg, just over the county line, an occasional service being held in the Kings River school house in Tulare County.

The most outstanding weakness of the churches of the county is their narrow emphasis and their lack of touch with the broader community problems. One reason for this is the constant shifting of ministers (which will be discussed in the next chapter), an almost fatal handicap to community influence. Another reason is the apparent lack in many ministers of a strong community interest, their failure or inability to see the problems of the individual, church or denomination in their proper relation to problems of the community as a whole, a lack of perspective in their work. There are here some peculiarly urgent community problems. The large transient population, the great

annual influx of seasonal workers with hard conditions of labor and adverse living conditions, the prevalence of unemployment and want, the need for higher standards of community morality and culture, the necessity of finding an adequate social substitute for the no longer present saloon and the omni-present public poolroom, the whole vexing recreation question, particularly as regards men and boys—these are only a few factors in the problem. Co-operation is of the very genius of these communities. Progress and development are in the air. But this spirit has not been seized upon by the church for religious ends. With the exception of a very few churches, the efforts in this direction have been rather puny—two or three parish houses, a rest room or two, an occasional athletic club, a few street meetings. The County Y. M. C. A. is doing a great deal, but it is young, its field is immense and its effective helpers are relatively few. And the truth is, that such an organization lives on the failure of the churches to encompass their full task. If they succeeded, it would be unnecessary. And just the type of thing the Y. M. C. A. is doing, the churches should have been doing for years past, and, for that matter, should now be doing. Which, in the end, simply means that many of the churches of the county need a different type of minister, differently trained. With which we come to the next chapter.

Chapter 6—The Minister.

The 95 Protestant churches, missions and preaching points under consideration are served by 77 ministers. Sixty-seven of these give full time to their ministry; ten divide their time between that and some other occupation. Eight ministers serve without salary, and are permanent residents of the respective communities. These will not be further considered at this point. The remaining 69 may be grouped thus: 50 ministers having one charge each serve 49 churches (one church having two ministers); 17 with two charges each serve 31 churches in this county (3 in adjoining counties); 2 with three charges each serve 4 churches in this county (two in adjoining counties). Three churches are probably permanently vacant, though the organizations are maintained.

Seventy-two of the 77 ministers live in this county, 5 in adjoining counties. Two residing in the county do not live within their parishes. Sixty-nine churches—42 in towns, 14 in villages, and 13 in the country—have resident ministers; 23 churches—6 in towns, 3 in villages, and 14 in the country—have non-resident ministers. In most cases, however, the ministers live near enough to do effective service.

The changes of ministers are so frequent in most sections as to seem

almost like a procession. Eliminating the unsalaried men who are property owners and permanent residents, 41 of the remaining 67 have been in the county for less than one year; 11 others for less than two years, and 5 for less than three years. Six men are serving their fourth year, two their fifth, one his sixth, and one his eighth year. The Presbyterians, as a denomination, have the best record for continuity of service, all but two men having served for more than one year. But this whole record is about as bad as it could be, and explains a good deal that is unsatisfactory about the churches. It is no wonder that a sermon and a revival is all that many ministers have had to offer for the advancement of the work. The one-year man is neither organizer nor community builder. If he succeeds in gaining the confidence of the community before he leaves, it is as much as he can do.

The salaries paid the ministers are, many of them, inadequate, but, on the whole, are as high as the average for similar communities. Ministers' salaries are proverbially too small, though this fact does not explain the constant shifting of men, who seem to go or stay, irrespective of the salaries they are receiving. An average for a large body of men would be a meaningless figure. The following table is, therefore, appended. In the second column, ministers who receive their house rent free are for purposes of comparison uniformly credited with \$200.00 a year additional.

| | Cash salary | Cash and house rent (if provided) |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Nothing | 8 | 8 |
| \$250 or less | 5 | 3 |
| \$251 to \$500 | 7 | 7 |
| \$501 to \$600 | 4 | 1 |
| \$601 to \$700 | 3 | 4 |
| \$701 to \$800 | 4 | 4 |
| \$801 to \$900 | 7 | 3 |
| \$901 to \$1,000 | 12 | 7 |
| \$1,001 to \$1,200 | 15 | 20 |
| \$1,201 to \$1,400 | 3 | 8 |
| \$1,401 or more | 4 | 7 |
| Amount not known | 5 | 5 |
| Total | <hr/> 77 | <hr/> 77 |

A little more than half of the ministers receive, at least, \$1,000 in cash and house rent, which, in this country, should be the minimum amount.

Twenty-nine of the ministers, or about two of every five, have had a full college and theological seminary course; 18 others have had a college course, or its equivalent. The remaining number have had only a High School training, or less. The trained men, as is usually the case,



SCHOOL BUILDING AT NAVELENCIA USED
FOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SERVICES

draw the largest salaries. Counting only the salaried men, those with college and seminary training receive, on the average, \$1,043.00; those with college, only \$931.00; with High School, only \$541.00; with common school, only \$257.00. This doesn't mean that training is the only criterion of ability, but rather that the stronger churches in general maintain higher standards in this respect. For the most part, the ministers of the county expressed a cordial interest in the purpose of this

survey, and co-operated most cordially with the investigator.

Chapter 7—General Conclusions.

A general survey of the field indicates that there is a very considerable territory in the county without adequate church facilities, but with a population so scattered that the possibilities of establishing any more churches seem remote. For such communities, the present solution of the problem seems to be through the Sunday School, particularly if under the oversight of some neighboring minister or trained worker. The County Y. M. C. A. should, in time, also be of great assistance. For the mountain communities, it is hardly possible that the future will bring about much change in the situation. On the valley floor it is different. Here, where the soil is good and water abundant, it is highly probable that populous communities will appear which can support church organizations, just as the Orange Cove Presbyterian Church was established in a community that, a few years ago, was non-existent. For the reason that such development may confidently be expected, every effort should be made to arrive at a working basis for interdenominational comity, that new work may not be crippled by over-lapping; if not a definite compact, at least, a "gentlemen's agreement." Sentiment of this sort is growing. There are interdenominational organizations of various sorts now—a County Ministerial Union, County Sunday School, Christian Endeavor, and Inter-

PERIODIC MIGRATIONS

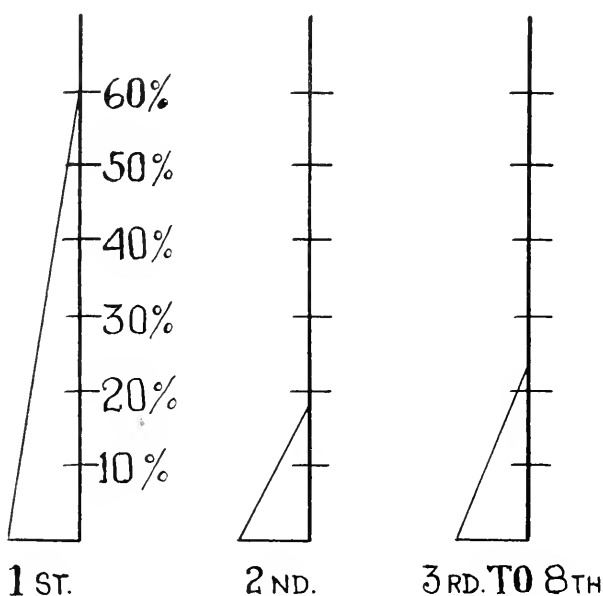
OF
67 PROTESTANT MINISTERS

41

11

15

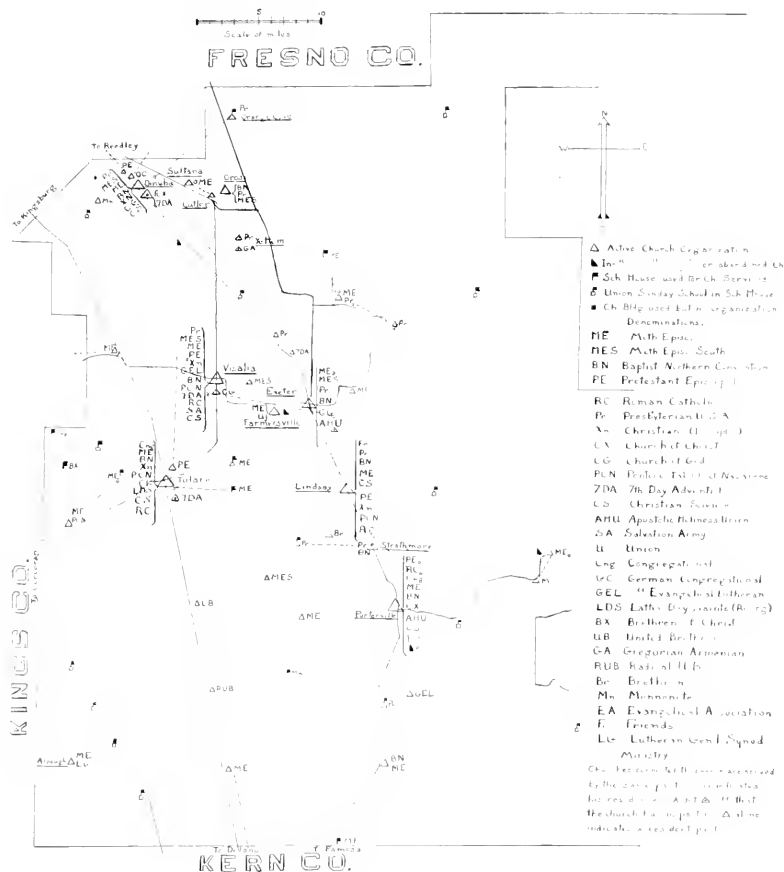
are serving this year for
the



YEAR
IN THEIR PRESENT PARISHES

mediate Unions, local ministerial unions in the various towns. These should all consciously lend themselves to an effort to handle the problem of church extension in the county in a statesmanlike manner. For the rest, though there are few communities in the county which could fairly be called religious communities, the future is full of promise for the churches that see their opportunity to become genuine community

TULARE CO. CHURCHES



churches. Many of the men on the field are advancing this end with able service. Men like Dr. Greig, pastor-evangelist of the San Joaquin Presbytery, have been in the past, and are now doing splendid work to evangelize and develop this new country. It is to be regretted that the value of their efforts must be so often minimized by the influence of men who put the welfare of a denomination before the welfare of the Kingdom of God, or who fail to see the broader implications of their task.

| | Denomination | Location | Town, Village, or Country. | Designation | How Served | Remarks |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Meth. Epis. . . . | Visalia | T | Organization . . . | Resident Pastor | |
| 2 | " | Tulare | T | " | " | " |
| 3 | " | Dinuba | T | " | " | " |
| 4 | " | Lindsay | T | " | " | " |
| 5 | " | Porterville | T | " | " | " |
| 6 | " | Exeter | T | " | " | " |
| 7 | " | Bonnie Brae | C | Preaching Point. | With Exeter. | Membership with Exeter |
| 8 | " | Goshen | V | Organization | Non-res. Supply | |
| 9 | " | Sultana | V | " | Resident Pastor | |
| 10 | " | Cutler | V | " | With Sultana | |
| 11 | " | Seville | C | Preaching Point. . . | " | No Building. |
| 12 | " | Farmersville | V | Organization | Resident Pastor | |
| 13 | " | Woodlake | V | " | " | |
| 14 | " | Townsend | C | Preaching Point. . . | With Woodlake. . . . | Use School H'se |
| 15 | " | Ducor | V | Organization | Resident Pastor | |
| 16 | " | Richgrove | C | Preaching Point. . . | With Ducor. | Use School H'se |
| 17 | " | Oakdale | C | Organization | Non-res. Supply. . . | " |
| 18 | " | Buena Vista | C | " | Resident Pastor. . . . | " |
| 19 | " | Waukena | C | " | With Buena Vista | |
| 20 | " | Alpaugh | C | " | Resident Pastor | |
| 21 | " | Poplar | C | " | " | |
| 22 | " | Springville | V | " | " | |
| 23 | " | Globe | C | " | With Springville | |
| 24 | " | Tulare | T | Portuguese Miss . . | Native Missionary | |
| 25 | " | Bliss | C | " | With Tulare Miss. . . | Use School H'se |
| 26 | " | Earlham | C | Preaching Point. . . | With Delano | |
| 27 | Presbyterian . . . | Visalia | T | Organization | Resident Pastor | |
| 28 | " | " | T | Oriental Mission. . . | " Worker | |
| 29 | " | Dinuba | T | Organization | " Pastor. | Korean Mission in Connection. |
| 30 | " | Exeter | T | " | " | |
| 31 | " | Lindsay | T | " | " | |
| 32 | " | Orosi | V | " | " | |
| 33 | " | Orange Cove | C | " | Non-res. Supply. . . | Prepar'g to build |
| 34 | " | Venice Hill | C | " | " | " |
| 35 | " | Woodlake | V | " | Resident Pastor | |
| 36 | " | Lemon Cove | V | " | With Woodlake | |
| 37 | " | Terra Bella | V | " | Resident Pastor. . . . | Use School H'se |
| 38 | " | Strathmore | V | " | " | |
| 39 | " | Prairie Center | C | " | With Strathmore. . . | Use School H'se |
| 40 | " | Yettm. | C | " | Resident Pastor. . . . | Armenian Congregation |
| 41 | Baptist | Visalia | T | Organization | Resident Pastor | |
| 42 | " | Tulare | T | " | " | |
| 43 | " | Dinuba | T | " | " | |
| 44 | " | Exeter | T | " | " | New Building under construction |
| 45 | " | Lindsay | T | " | " | |
| 46 | " | Porterville | T | " | " | |
| 47 | " | Ducor | V | " | " | |
| 48 | " | Orosi | V | " | " | |
| 49 | " | Strathmore | V | " | " | |
| 50 | M. E. South. . . . | Visalia | T | Organization | Resident Pastor | |
| 51 | " | Dinuba | T | " | " | |
| 52 | " | Exeter | T | " | " | |
| 53 | " | Orosi | V | " | " | |
| 54 | " | Woodville | C | " | " | |
| 55 | " | E. Mineral King | C | " | " | E. of Visalia |

| | Denomination | Location | Town, Village, or Country. | Designation | How Served | Remarks |
|-----|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 56 | Chris. Science. | Visalia..... | T | Organization..... | | |
| 57 | " | Dinuba..... | T | " | | |
| 58 | " | Tulare..... | T | " | | |
| 59 | " | Lindsay..... | T | " | | |
| 60 | " | Porterville..... | T | " | | |
| 61 | Protestant Episcopal. | Visalia..... | T | Organization..... | Resident Pastor | |
| 62 | " | Tulare..... | T | " | With Visalia | |
| 63 | " | Dinuba..... | T | " | With Reedley | |
| 64 | " | Porterville..... | T | " | Resident Pastor | |
| 65 | " | Lindsay..... | T | " | With Porterville... | Bldg. under construction |
| 66 | Church of God | Exeter..... | T | Organization..... | Resident Pastor | |
| 67 | " | Visalia..... | T | " | With Exeter | |
| 68 | " | Tulare..... | T | Un-organized Meeting. | Resident Pastor | |
| 69 | " | Dinuba..... | T | Organization..... | " " | |
| 70 | Pentecostal Church of Nazarene. | Visalia..... | T | Organization..... | Vacant..... | Practically Abandoned |
| 71 | " | Waukena..... | C | " | Non-res. Supply | |
| 72 | " | Tulare..... | T | " | 2 Resid't Workers | |
| 73 | " | Lindsay..... | T | " | Resident Pastor | |
| 74 | Seventh Day Adventist. | Visalia..... | T | Organization..... | Resident Pastor | |
| 75 | " | Dinuba..... | T | " | Local Elder..... | Have Parochial School |
| 76 | " | Tulare..... | T | " | " " | |
| 77 | " | Venice..... | C | " | " " | Have Parochial School |
| 78 | Rom. Catholic | Visalia..... | T | Organization..... | Resident Pastor | |
| 79 | " | Tulare..... | T | " | " " | |
| 80 | " | Porterville..... | T | " | " " | |
| 81 | " | Lindsay..... | T | Mission..... | With Porterville | |
| 82 | Disciples of Christ. | Visalia..... | T | Organization..... | Resident Pastor | |
| 83 | " | Lindsay..... | T | " | " " | |
| 84 | " | Dinuba..... | T | " | " " | |
| 85 | " | Tulare..... | T | " | " " | |
| 86 | German Evangelical Lutheran. | Visalia..... | T | Organization..... | Resident Pastor. | Have Parochial School |
| 87 | " | Dinuba..... | T | Preaching Point... | With Visalia | |
| 88 | " | N. E. of Terra Bella. | C | Organization..... | Resident Pastor... | Have Parochial School |
| 89 | Congregation'l | Tulare..... | T | Organization..... | Resident Pastor | |
| 90 | " | Porterville... | T | " | " " | |
| 91 | " | Manzanillo... | C | Preaching Point... | Non-res. Supply... | N. W. of Tulare |
| 92 | Church of Christ. | Porterville... | T | Organization..... | Resident Pastor | |
| 93 | " | Dinuba..... | T | Un-organized Meeting..... | Vacant | |
| 94 | Apostolic Holi- ness Union | Exeter..... | T | Organization..... | Vacant | |
| 95 | " | Porterville... | T | " | Local Preacher | |
| 96 | Mennonite.... | W. of Dinuba | C | " | " " | |
| 97 | " | Saucelito..... | C | Un-organized Meeting. | " " | Use School House |
| 98 | German Con- gregational. | Dinuba..... | T | Organization..... | With Sanger | |
| 99 | Evangelical Association. | Porterville... | T | " | Resident Pastor | |
| 100 | Friends..... | Lindsay..... | T | " | " " | |
| 101 | Lutheran Gen'l Synod | Alpaugh..... | C | " | " " | |
| 102 | Brethren..... | W. of Strath- more. | C | " | Local Preacher | |
| 103 | Brethren of Christ. | Aurora..... | C | Un-organized Meeting. | " " | Use School House N. of Waukena |
| 104 | Union..... | Farmersville.. | V | Organization..... | Resident Pastor | |
| 105 | United Breth'n | Tipton..... | V | " | " " | |
| 106 | Radical U. B.. | Pixley..... | V | " | " " | |
| 107 | Armenian Gregorian. | Yettom..... | C | Un-organized Meeting. | Vacant | |
| 108 | Latter Day Saints—Re- organized. | Tulare..... | T | Organization..... | Missionary | |
| 109 | Buddhist..... | Visalia..... | T | | | |

PART VI.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The first conclusion which we draw from this survey is that the work in California needs larger funds and more generous support from the church. The Board of Home Missions should be asked for ampler funds, and should grant more for the work in the Presbytery of San Joaquin. The money is needed for two main purposes:

First.—To extend the gospel in the ever new communities which are formed in the country. The work laid upon the shoulders of Dr. G. B. Greig is a great work efficiently borne. It will continue for years to come to be the chief interest of not only the Presbyterian, but of other churches in this region. The section is only in part settled. The possibilities of raising fruit are only in part realized. The chief use of this survey may well be to show the greatness of the problem in California, which few people outside of California appreciate.

Consider the public school organization of the state as a measure of what the church ought to do, and it becomes evident at once that we are not comprehending the greatness of the California need. The Christian leaders in California should organize to lay their needs before the national bodies, and to present them to men of wealth in California and other states, in order that adequate provision may be made for establishing the Church in new communities.

Second.—There should be at certain important centers great and generous provision for the growth of the churches. This is especially true in the agricultural towns and in the oil towns. There abundance of money is made by men who, if a great plan were presented to them, would gladly give generously. Most of these are California residents. Our recommendation is that the money for extension of the Church in new communities should come in large measure from national home mission funds, but that large plans should be made and generous funds asked for the building and equipping of complete church plants at important centers.

In the selection of these centers the Home Board could co-operate, but the management of this forward movement should be in California. The time has come now, in leading towns, when the Protestant Church must have a large and ample equipment, in order to serve the whole community.

This survey is not published primarily as an advice to the Presbytery of San Joaquin in the work it is now doing, for that work is effectively and well done. Dr. Greig, who gave patient and invaluable assistance to the investigators who have made this study, deserves the utmost confidence from the churches, and his work should have the continuing support of both the Synod and the Home Board. There are few men in the service of the churches who are doing in the country work so lasting and so far-sighted.

The survey is a presentation of the situation in California to the Church at large. It shows the extent of the school development, and the great scale on which the school work is done in California, the foresight and generosity with which the state is laying educational foundations. We present this study of the schools as a measure of the foundations which the churches must provide for the population in California.

The survey shows also the greatness of the economic problem in California, the ample wealth which the state is producing, and will produce more abundantly in the future. This part of the survey is for the purpose, again, of measuring the religious needs of California with a sufficiently large rule, and of showing the justification for work in this state, both in the needs of the people and in their ability to continue what is now begun.

The survey also shows, in the main outline, how well the initial work has been done toward the planting of churches in rural communities in California. Considering the great extent of this task, and its many difficulties, the financial burdens under which, in a new state, our race and our people have had to go forward, we believe that commendation and thanksgiving should be the chief and first report upon all this work. The foundations are well laid for a great religious future for California. The whole work is animated with the hope and optimism which has characterized that state from the beginning. The purpose of the survey is to show how far this work has been done, and what remains in the immediate future to be completed.

To San Joaquin Presbytery and to Its Constituent Churches.

First.—Patience is the first great need of the religious worker in California. The country sections, represented by Tulare County, are in a state of rapid change. Years must run before the population settles. For a long time there will be much moving in and out of each rural community. This means that many churches will suffer losses, members who are now relied on will move away, new persons will be taking their places, and a continued period of changes will go on until

a permanent rural population comes to dwell in the towns, villages and open country.

The churches should strive for longer pastorates. This does not mean the life pastorate; but ministers, especially in the country, should be established for a greater length of time. Only patience and continuance will win for the denomination or congregation in the coming years. Spasmodic efforts or brilliant personalities will have but little effect upon the moving equilibrium. Their brief successes will pass out of account in the coming and going of many families and men; but a minister who gives five or ten years to a town will accomplish something. He will be a strong force in fixing the population, in persuading the best people to stay in the community. The time comes in the growth of towns when a more mature and abiding sense of residence shows itself. At this time ministers of permanence are community builders. They are to be the interpreters of country life to those who are ready for the message.

Parsonages should be built by those churches which desire to hold their congregations. Less than one-half of the ministers are so furnished, and a residence for the minister is a big factor in the permanence of his work.

Second.—Evangelism is the alphabet of Christian service in a population rapidly increasing. This duty is the greater in the San Joaquin Valley, where only 16% of the non-Catholic population is in the churches. To win men to Christ and the Church is the daily breath of duty. California has not had success in the use of professional evangelists, and we do not recommend their work. It is obvious that the ministers on the ground have done the best work, for 35% to 40% of the family groups in this county are connected with churches, showing that old religious habits draw many. The need now is of diligent personal work in the community and in the household. Men are conspicuously absent from the churches. To win them to the church is the task to be accomplished by diligent personal appeal, by patient and persistent community service lasting beyond three years, at the least; and by an attitude of the church toward the community and its affairs which will command the respect of male members of the population. It would not misstate the case to say that the evangelism needed in Tulare County is a business man's and bread-winners' evangelism. The gospel must be presented in a way to win men who have to get a living, and to provide, as God provides, for a family.

Third.—The open fields for mission work in the towns are the immigrant populations—Portuguese, East Indian, and others, who recently arrived from foreign shores. A large field of new work where

congregations may be established is in the open country in the development of new sections. The Sunday School opportunity in the county is the most promising opening for evangelistic work in the country. The Sunday School is the best means of reaching the evangelized section of the country, and this survey discloses that there are 43 school districts where live 927 children who have no church or Sunday School privilege, being five miles from the nearest Sunday School. This opportunity should not be neglected by the churches of Tulare County and by the Sunday School authorities.

Fourth.—The villages in Tulare County are over-churched. This excess of churches is to be found in all the rural sections of southern California. There are too many churches in the village and too few in the open country. There are no opportunities for more village churches, as a rule, but there are openings for new religious work in the towns.

The plague of over-lapping religious work has something to do with the low church membership, which, in the village, is recorded as being less than 7 per cent. The situation is deplorable. It is in vain to urge evangelistic effort, for there is something wrong with the membership of a church when, at a point where her divisions are greatest, her membership is the smallest.

Probably the over-lapping of churches is not the only cause. The villages suffer from the difficulties of work in the open country, and from the swift, moving unrest of the dwellers of the farm, as well as from the difficulties which the towns have. Professor Hart says, "The village is neither hay nor grass." It is neither green growth of the open country nor the seasoned product of the city. The problem of rural California, therefore, is at its most acute stage in the village.

We recommend that for a time no new churches be established in the villages. It is a relief to know that one kind of work can, for a time, be let alone. It will do the village good when it has too many churches to let it alone. Ministers and church leaders should give preference to town and open country until there is a more favorable state of religious demand in the village. The greatest problem at present is that churches are needed in the swiftly developing country field. The next greatest problem is the intensifying and strengthening of more strategic churches, the most of which will, perhaps, be in the towns.

Fifth.—It is plain that public sentiment in this region needs a new teaching about the church. The doctrine of comity and co-operation should be preached with force. The one religious doctrine that people in general will talk about, is the unity of Christian people.

The best way to teach comity and co-operation is to present the church as a community-serving organization. This means that the church is the soul of the community. God's spirit is teaching this to men everywhere. It is the spiritual message of the quarter-century. Since the days of Charles H. Parkhurst, the Puritan who cleaned New York, all ministers have dreamed of a church that shall be civic—the heart of a society.

If this is done, and if people are convinced that the church should serve all in the community, not belong to a denominational few alone, then it will follow in the minds of all hearers that the people owe the church a duty. The time will never come when men will believe alike. A church of doctrines is a church of dissent and of competition; but a church of service is a church of unity and co-operation. The best way to convince the average man that churches should co-operate, is to convince him that the Church of Jesus Christ must everywhere serve all the people.

Indeed among ignorant people denominations are formed of "come-outers," who profess, and with sincerity, the purpose of forming a separate denomination, in order to unite all Christians. What we recommend here is, that the churches should teach and preach the duty of comity and co-operation, in order to forestall the formation of new churches in these old communities. Already there are too many.

Sixth.—The deplorable number of independent churches in California expressing revolt and seeking an experience of ecstasy is to be explained by the fact that many of the churches of the older tradition do not serve the whole community; they do not try to. They ignore the poor. Their forms of service do not appeal to the ignorant or the needy. It is of people of small mind and of strong emotions that these random denominations are formed. They have a perfect right, of course, to worship after their own manner. But the five great denominations which lead in Tulare County have no right to neglect the poor, the ignorant, the commonplace, and the emotional. They are responsible, and should satisfy the religious cravings of all classes of the population. There is no reason why Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregational, and Disciple Churches should not be sufficient to the task in Tulare County—except that these churches tend to interpret religion for college people and business people in terms of intellect, literature, criticism and reform. These things are of small concern to working people, who care more for sympathy, neighborly affection, and for enthusiasm in religion. At great costs to themselves they form denominations when necessary to satisfy their religious cravings.



ANOTHER USE FOR THE IRRIGATION DITCH

The community church ought to satisfy these cravings. If it would organize—not necessarily as a gymnasium, or as the Young Men's Christian Association, with its elaborate plant—but as a cordial, devout, praying fellowship, meeting in the homes of the people, sympathizing with the young, comforting the aged, and gathering the poor and discouraged into its fellowship, it would include all the people of the community. We admit this cannot be done without a pastorate who are resolved to remain, at least, five years in a place.

Seventh.—The greatest lack in the churches surveyed is an interest in the community. This does not mean that the church should busy itself rebuking the sins of the community. It is a mistake to suppose that the first business of the church is with the sins of the people. Churches are not moralists' societies; but just God's folks. Life is their gospel, not morality. It is pharisaical to assume that from the start the church is in a position to rebuke the people. The great business of the church is with life first, and her relation to sin is incidental. Her message is one of eternal life, therefore the church should bring cheer and refreshment to those who are under heavy strain, courage to the depressed, and a message of daring, of fearlessness and of abounding resources to the children of God in all their work and trouble. The settlement of a new state imposes a heavy strain upon the population who make the first advances. They have to pay a heavy cost in laying the foundations of California. Many of them lay down their lives and fortunes in the process. The church must have a happy,

affirmative, dynamic message of courage and faith. It must learn from the "Christian Scientists" their spirit, which some one had condensed into the phrase, "All's well with me." It must learn from the "Church of God" their discipline of emotional joy. It must learn from the "Millennialists" their belief in the future, even though they despair of the present.

The church, with a community interest, will love and encourage the young people. It will teach them how to play, which to them is the business of life. It will convince them the business of religion through the minister and his people sharing in their spirit, through the promotion of play and recreation, through the provision of facilities for play, which is the business of youth and of childhood.

The church which has community interest, which demonstrates its love of life and its belief that God lives among the people of California, will be the only church permitted to rebuke the sins, and the only one expected to teach the virtues of the life in California. Hitherto the problem of divine, Christ-like sympathy with the life peculiar to the Pacific Coast has been unsolved. Ministers come from the other states with little knowledge of the people of the Coast. They preach a gospel too often that is appropriate to Massachusetts or Michigan, and they rebuke the sins of California without adequate sympathy for the people in California. Jesus, our Master, said, "I come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly."

To the Rural Congregations.

The critical problem in Rural California is the training of the converted men and women for citizenship in the Kingdom and in the Commonwealth. The church's part in the making of Christian citizens is spiritual, to teach men to obey.

The problem of living in California, of tilling the soil, of getting an income, of spending it effectively, of teaching the children of the people, of building social institutions, especially the church, is huge and exhausting. It can only be accomplished by co-operation, to which the California farmer aspires. The spiritual side of co-operation is obedience, and this obedience the church must teach. The following are suggestions in training Christian people in obedience:

1. The first is a program. Each church should have plans that look five years ahead. Minister and Presbytery should co-operate in looking to the future. Random reform movements and unexpected explosions make the people revolt against leadership. The missionary program is far more important than any other, and is nearer at hand. Every congregation in California should have a part in giving the

gospel to all California. We believe that California should organize for her own great task. We recommend a program for the rural congregation, published, and continuously held before the people until, step by step, it is accomplished.

2. A survey of the community made in an orderly, systematic way by a pastor, or by a co-operative act of pastors, is a first step in forming a program. This survey, when made, should be made public from the pulpit and in print. Graphic charts should be made to exhibit in the church. This will cultivate in the people a conception of certain work to do, and will hold them to a consistent policy of evangelism and Christian service.

3. The Protestant policy is the best of schools in which to form the citizen. A Presbyterian congregation is governed by elders, honestly elected, holding office for a short time, and while in office sharing with the minister the direction of the congregation. This governing group is subject to the Presbytery. There could not be a better school of the civic and Christian virtues. These men learn to obey, and to command which is another part of the same virtue. Each elder should be the head of one section of church work, and every member of the congregation should have a duty under one of the elders. They should be subject to the session over which the minister presides. Other Protestant churches have similar forms. We recommend that the congregation be made, rather than a new society, to help advance the school for training men in civic obedience.

4. The next best school of obedience is in giving. If the church has a purpose, and it is kept before the mind of the people, they will cheerfully give. They will invent ways to give, if the purpose is a big one.

5. The Sunday School is the place to teach religion, and an organization in which men learn to obey.

6. Prayer organized is a school of obedience in which the minister, craving to lead his people, puts his hand in God's hand and works with a holy spirit, in the deepest and most holy confidence which the soul knows and the church declares. We are not commending prayer meetings alone. There should be large gatherings of the people, in which two or three, or more, should pray together for the various enterprises of the church, for saving of individual souls, for finding of elders and teachers that will do business of the Lord. This school of prayer is the best training in obedience we can commend.

The task of training the Christian men in California, whose hearts God has touched, is a great one. It is hard, because the cost of living in California is great. The tax which nature and mankind lay upon

the individual, and upon the household, is a heavy tax. The church in the country should be made the heart of the struggle on California soil; for here the white race is struggling for possession of the strip of land on the last continent which God reserved for them until the end of time.

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